



THE INDEPENDENT

No 3,647

FRIDAY 26 JUNE 1998

(1R 50p) 45p

32-PAGE NEWS SECTION

Cometh the hour, cometh the boy?

WITH NINE PAGES OF SPORT

24-PAGE BROADSHEET REVIEW

DANGER: women at work

Babes will be babes

FRIDAY REVIEW FRONT



When the stars divide

PLUS MUSIC, ARTS, LISTINGS & LAW

Beckett pledges cut in power bills

CONSUMERS COULD see their electricity bills fall by more than 10 per cent over the next two years, but 5,000 miners whose jobs were at risk were told yesterday that they will have to compete to survive.

Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, gave no guarantees to the miners that their jobs would be safe after announcing a package of proposals designed to allow the coal industry to compete fairly with gas and nuclear power in the supply of electricity.

The proposals bought a breathing space for the coal

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

communities, who were threatened with the loss of thousands of jobs and the closure of up to eight pits if their contracts with the big power generators were not renewed next month.

"I am in no doubt that the proposals we are announcing today and the way in which we are unravelling the market does give a real space for coal," Mrs Beckett told MPs.

The package failed, however, to satisfy the "Old Labour" MPs from the coalfield com-

munities led by Tony Benn and Dennis Skinner. And it disappointed the electricity industry, which will be forced into some painful restructuring to give coal the chance to survive against other energy sources.

The main points of the announcement were: pressing the major generators, National Power and PowerGen, to sell their coal-fired plant; a halt to most new gas-power stations to prevent the "dash for gas"; coal-fired generators to fit desulphurisation equipment to cut down emissions so that they meet the Government's

"green" targets; reform of the electricity "pool" trading system which allegedly is geared against coal; and a temporary moratorium on all new power station consents until 20 July to allow consultation on the plans.

John Redwood, the Tory trade and industry spokesman, last night dismissed the package as "empty" and warned that jobs could still be lost to foreign imports, if the power generators switched to more coal.

Mrs Beckett accused the Tories of hypocrisy. If their policies had been followed, she said: "The coal industry would

have disappeared and I don't think they would have given tuppence."

The measures were welcomed by a broad alliance of Labour MPs from modernisers to traditional backbenchers, who had campaigned for the coalfield communities to be protected. More help could be targeted at the pit villages after the mid-July comprehensive spending review.

The package fell short of the direct intervention that was originally planned by Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, to guarantee the coal in-

dustry a market. The Prime Minister had ordered the plans to be rewritten because they were too "Old Labour" and interventionist. Mrs Beckett told MPs there would be no state subsidies for coal.

Mr Robinson had proposed a moratorium on all new gas-power plans, but Downing Street ordered a compromise because of fears of legal challenges by the power generators.

Those fears were confirmed in Mrs Beckett's statement which said that Professor Stephen Littlechild, the Director-General of Electricity Sup-

ply, "has reservations about restrictions on consents" for new gas plants but "recognises the Government's responsibility for energy policy, including diversity issues".

With the Chancellor sitting by her side to demonstrate his support for her proposals, Mrs Beckett made it clear there could be no guarantees for failing pits. But she claimed that changing the market, so that it was no longer rigged against coal, would give them the chance to survive. "A coal industry that is able to achieve its own competitive advantage

should make its own way fairly in the market place," she told MPs.

DTI officials privately admitted that the number of jobs to be rescued in the coal industry will depend on Richard Budge, the owner of RJB Mining, who plunged the Government into crisis at Christmas by warning that pits would have to close unless ministers intervened. Mr Budge will now have to win fresh contracts for coal from the threatened pits by convincing the power generators that they can buy coal more cheaply than gas.

Storm over fox cubs reared by hunt

BY KIM SENGUPA

ONE OF the country's most prestigious fox hunts is under investigation after police and inspectors from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals discovered and rescued fox cubs trapped in a cage on the hunt's land.

It is believed to be the first time that photographic evidence has been obtained of the alleged practice of capturing foxes to be used for hunting. Animal rights activists say this undermines the argument of blood sport supporters that hunting is essentially a form of pest control.

The pair of three-month-old cubs were found in a muddy trap on land owned by the Sington Hunt on the fringe of the North Yorkshire Moors after an undercover operation by the League Against Cruel Sports.

Carcasses of a chicken and a lamb were found nearby. Animal activists say the plan was to use the foxes for hunting when the cubbing season began in the autumn.

Two employees of the hunt, a kennel huntsman and a terrier man were taken by police to the site of the trap yesterday morning. Animal welfare activists described the discovery of the trap as a major blow against blood sports.

They claim further investigations will reveal that this was not an isolated example, and that capturing and then using foxes for "spontaneous hunting" was widespread.

Last night, neither Adam Waugh nor Andrew Osborne, the current masters, were available for comment.

Michael Foster, the Labour MP for Worcester, whose Private Member's Bill on hunting with dogs reignited the debate over field sports, said last night: "This is evidence that fox-hunting is about sport, human beings gaining pleasure from cruelty to animals. It is not about pest control."



President Bill Clinton and the First Lady receive an emperor's welcome in Xian, the former Imperial capital, yesterday at the start of their nine-day state visit to China. Some 800 actors danced to the beat of giant drums at the pageant. In his speech, the US President spoke of respect for freedom.

Rick Wilking/Reuters

Doctors call for end of kidney sale ban

THE BAN on allowing people to sell their kidneys for transplant should be lifted to overcome the world-wide shortage of organ donors, an international group of experts in medical ethics has concluded.

Objections to the sale of organs are based on "feelings of outrage and disgust" rather than on rational assessment of the risks and benefits.

Banning the sale of the organs restricts their supply,

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

causing much suffering and death, and denies financial benefits to people who are often poor and in desperate need, they say.

The International Forum for Transplant Ethics has reopened one of the most controversial issues in medicine by suggesting that a market in human organs could be estab-

lished. They say they are not arguing for an unfeathered market, but believe the trade could be carefully regulated by independent trusts, which would fix charges and handle accounts.

In 1990 the UK General Medical Council struck off two doctors involved in what became known as the "kidneys-for-sale" scandal. Impoverished young Turkish men had been enticed to Britain and paid around £2,000 for their kidneys, al-

though they claimed they did not know what was happening to them. The case, one of the most notorious to be heard by the GMC, exposed what many saw as the seamier side of medicine.

That view has now been dismissed by the eight member forum, who argue that feelings of repugnance at the idea of selling organs "cannot justify removing the only hope of the destitute and dying".

The group includes Ian Kennedy, professor of medical ethics at University College, London, recently announced as chairman of the forthcoming public inquiry into the Bristol heart surgery disaster, and Professor Raymond Hoffenberg, former president of the Royal College of Surgeons.

Writing in the *Lancet*, they say the commonest objection to kidney selling - a person can live a normal life with only one functioning kidney - is that it exploits the poor who need protection from the greedy rich.

Against this, they say the operation is low risk and the lot of people whose only means of raising money is to sell their kidneys cannot be improved by removing "the best option that poverty has left".

Potential vendors too uneducated or ignorant to understand what is involved should be counselled.

strength and success," he said. "A commitment to providing all human beings the opportunity to develop their full potential is vital to the strength and success of the new China" as well.

For the time being, new China was sticking to some of its well-entrenched old ways. Within hours of Air Force One touching down in Xian, the US had expressed disquiet to the Chinese authorities over reports of dissidents being taken into custody by police in Xian and elsewhere in China.

Tonight, Mr Clinton flies to the Chinese capital for a summit meeting tomorrow with President Jiang Zemin, and then travels on to Shanghai, Gulin, and Hong Kong.

Clinton's imperial style, page 12

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Chris Wilkinson gave British tennis a boost with a victory over Marc Rosset at Wimbledon

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It couldn't hit the net any faster.

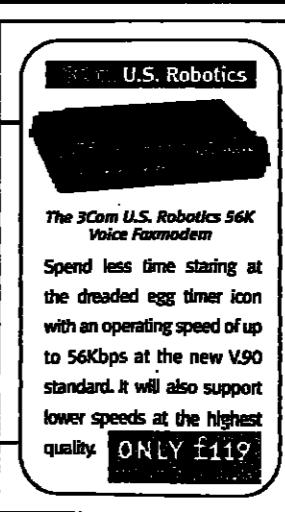
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A ruthless IRA terrorist was jailed for 25 years for the rush-hour explosion which devastated the London Docklands, killed two men and injured dozens. Page 5

Waste paper market crumples

The market for waste paper has collapsed and is bringing down councils' recycling schemes with it. Page 7

FOREIGN NEWS

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Israel and Lebanon trade bodies

In a gory exchange, Israel will receive the body of a naval commando in return for 60 Lebanese prisoners and the bodies of 40 guerrillas. Page 13

No independence for Kosovo

As ethnic Albanian insurgents made more inroads on the ground, the major powers still insisted there could be no independence for Kosovo. Page 15

BUSINESS NEWS

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BA may have to give up slots

British Airways will be forced to accept tough conditions on landing slots in exchange for EU clearance for its planned merger with American Airlines. Page 18

Manufacturers export orders dip

Manufacturers are facing the lowest level of export orders for more than 15 years. Page 19

SPORTS NEWS

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Schumacher drives into a row

Michael Schumacher's behaviour on the track has led to calls for the ex-world champion to quit as spokesman for the Grand Prix Drivers' Association. Page 27

Everton's bid to poach Kidd

Brian Kidd is still top of Everton's shopping list for a new manager despite Manchester United's determination to keep him as No 2 to Alex Ferguson. Page 28

FRIDAY REVIEW
24-PAGE BROADSHEET SECTION

Philip Henscher

'It is a truly horrid thing, the Harrod's shrine, as unap- pealingly as Mr Fayed's taste for proliferating conspir- acy theories.' Page 4

Derek Pringle

'Without colossi like Ian Botham, David Gower and Graham Gooch, cricket's appeal has dwindled.' Page 5

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Because newspapers don't make good umbrellas.



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no subscription necessary. Call now on 0990 97 97 97.Ulster casts a vote
for a peaceful futureBY DAVID MCKITTRICK
Ireland Correspondent

NORTHERN IRELAND electors yesterday cast vital votes for candidates for the new Belfast assembly which is supposed to help transform the face of politics and to secure a more peaceful future.

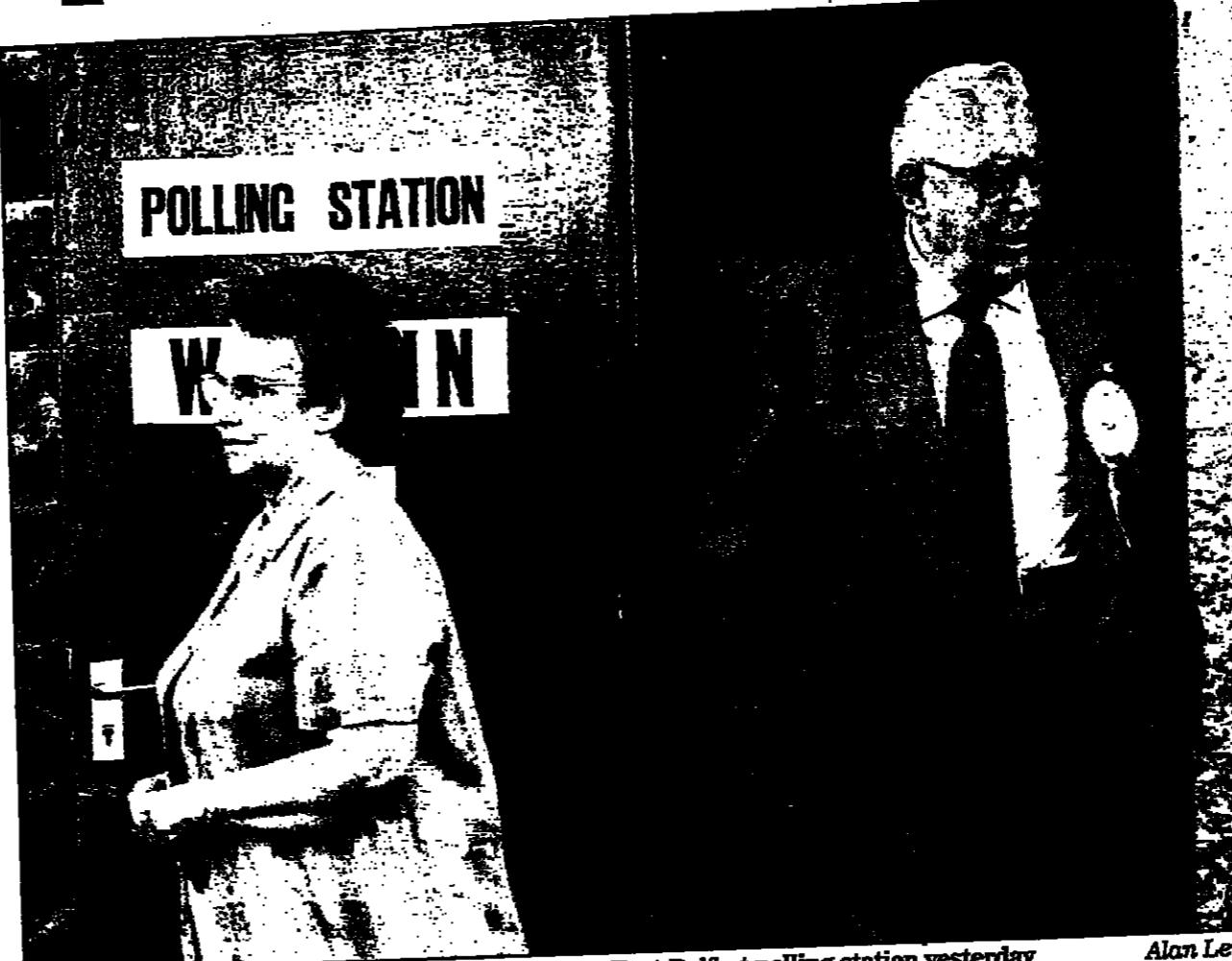
In spite of an exceptionally low-key campaign the turnout appeared to be high, particularly in western areas where voters have traditionally shown great determination to get to the polls.

Counting starts this morning, with results expected to become known from early afternoon onwards. Counting may go into a second day, given that the proportional representation system of voting means a longer tallying process than the Westminster first-past-the-post method.

Heavy mid-afternoon rain in Belfast deterred some voters, but the usual post-teatime rush saw steady streams of voters trooping to the 1,228 polling stations.

In Protestant east Belfast some polling stations were heavily decked with multi-coloured election posters, reflecting the keen contest for votes among different shades of Unionist parties in the area.

Across in west Belfast, meanwhile, posters and other decorations exhorting support for Gerry Adams and other Sinn Fein candidates dominated most of the stations. Many of the district's London-style black taxis were pressed into service transporting Sinn Fein supporters. Almost 300 candidates are seeking the 108 assembly seats, six of which will come from each of the 18 West-



The Rev Ian Paisley and his wife Eileen leaving the East Belfast polling station yesterday

Alan Lewis

minster constituencies. The assembly is expected to meet for the first time on Wednesday next week to elect a Speaker. Its timetable after that is unclear.

New last-minute arrangements were put in place in the County Armagh village of Newtownhamilton whose centre was badly damaged by an INLA car-bomb attack on Wednesday. The local commu-

nity centre, where voting was to have taken place, was destroyed in the blast. In its place a school a quarter of a mile away was used instead.

In the Dail, the Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, appealed for a big turn-out.

He said: "Today is another step on the road to democracy that will give new institutions, that will break away from direct rule for the first time in more

than a quarter of a century."

The Tories have made a private offer to Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, to change the Government's Bill to allow the release of prisoners, writes Colin Brown.

Their amendment would harden the Bill by requiring the Secretary of State to "take into account" terrorist activity before releasing prisoners. She would have to make sure their organisations were cooperating with the arms decommissioning body. The Tories, who faced criticism after voting against the third reading of the Bill in the Commons, are seeking a consensus for their change.

But they can use their strength in the Lords to defeat the Government if it rejects their move to reinforce the linking of releases with decommissioning of weapons.

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ROBERT FISK: 'On side of ordinary people'

FISK
WINS TOP
AWARD

ROBERT FISK, The Independent's Middle East correspondent, was last night declared the overall winner of the 1998 Amnesty International UK press awards for his reporting on Algeria.

The awards, for excellence in human rights reporting, cover categories from radio and television to print and photo journalism.

The citation for Fisk referred to the tremendous record he has established over many years for "intelligence, compassion and unswerving independence" in his reporting of the Middle East, the Balkans and North Africa.

Mark Lattimer, director of communications at Amnesty International and one of the panel of five judges, said that the judges were particularly looking for those writers who accurately and vividly reported the news while at the same time bringing alive the reality of human situations as they were lived.

Fisk, he felt, was driven by "an unceasing desire to find out what was going on in the ground, and who was responsible".

He was also "objective to a fault but always on the side of ordinary people".

The other judges, were Poly Toynbee of the *Guardian*, Nicky Campbell of Radio 5, Penny Smith of *GMTV* and Kirsty Young of Channel 5 News. Melvyn Bragg presented the awards.

Robert Fisk reports from Pristina, page 15

Lens braces for England fans

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE
IN Lens
AND MARK OLIVER

AS THE England football team prepares for its most important match yet of this World Cup, police are standing by for a game which presents the greatest potential for hooliganism.

Up to 35,000 England supporters - though some estimates put the number even higher - are expected to arrive in Lens by the time tonight's game with Colombia kicks off in the Felix-Bollaert stadium. England need at least a draw to proceed to the next round.

A 24-hour alcohol ban has been imposed in bars and restaurants in Lens, Calais and surrounding areas starting from 6am today and shops and supermarkets within a 30-mile

with alcohol will be put on the next ferry back. Six people were sent back yesterday.

"It's business as usual onboard the ferries in terms of the bars being open and the duty-free sales," said a spokesman for SeaFrance. P&O Stena has also said it will be selling alcohol as normal unless there were any problems. Both companies are fully-booked.

British police admit that among the thousands of fans there will be a number of known hooligans - the Category C troublemakers - trying to get to Lens.

While the National Criminal Intelligence Service's football unit has increased its number

of specialist spotters to 22 to try and identify hooligans and have them expelled from France, there is an acceptance that some may slip through the net.

"We will be monitoring a number of people who may be intending to travel," said an NCIS spokesman. "But even before the World Cup we said Lens had a potential all of its own."

There is also concern that German neo-Nazi hooligans

who ran riot in Lens earlier this week and left a French policeman on a life-support machine, will return to fight the English. A team of German police spotters will also be on hand.

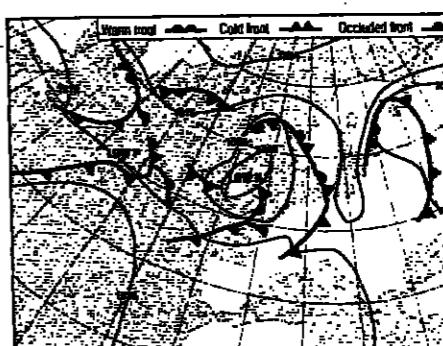
Last week the Mayor of Lens, Andre Delillis, said he was

convinced that the town would not suffer as Marseilles had because it did not have a "population of delinquents". That was before the rioting surrounding the Germany-Yugoslavia match when up to 600 Category C German hooligans went on the rampage. Last night 14 German fans suspected of hooliganism were detained in France.

French police have categorised all England games as high-risk but because of the ease of access for England fans and the importance of the match, Lens has been marked down as potentially the most troublesome. Up to 1,300 police officers will be on duty.

THE WORLD

ATLANTIC CHART, NOON TODAY



Low N will move eastwards, slowly filling. Low P will deepen as it runs quickly east.

THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Most recent available figure at noon local time

Aberdeen	C 31 88	Chicago	C 32 90	Lima	F 21 70
Alexandria	C 31 88	Christiansburg	C 14 57	London	S 22 72
Algiers	C 28 82	Cologne	C 28 82	Lyon	M 27 81
Alkmaar	C 25 77	Copenhagen	C 17 63	Madrid	C 16 61
Anchorage	C 18 64	Dakar	C 28 82	Malaga	F 30 86
Athènes	C 31 88	Darwin	C 24 75	Moscow	S 25 77
Auckland	C 13 59	Delaware	C 24 75	Montevideo	S 21 86
Bangkok	C 23 80	Denmark	C 25 77	Montreal	S 27 81
Bangui	C 33 91	Faroe	C 23 73	Montreal	S 27 63
Barnstaple	C 30 85	Florence	C 28 84	Montreal	S 26 86
Barcelona	C 26 79	Frankfurt	C 27 81	Montevideo	S 20 86
Berlin	C 28 82	Freiburg	C 22 72	Montreal	S 21 70
Bermuda	C 21 70	Gibraltar	C 25 77	Montreal	S 23 73
Berwick	C 26 79	Harrow	C 19 66	Montreal	S 19 86
Berwick-upon-Tweed	C 18 64	Helsinki	C 16 61	Montreal	F 24 75
Bogota	C 23 80	Hong Kong	C 31 88	Montreal	S 30 86
Bordeaux	C 22 82	Iceland	C 25 77	Montreal	S 30 86
Bordighera	C 18 64	Indonesia	C 26 79	Montreal	S 26 77
Brisbane	C 15 59	India	C 24 75	Montreal	S 27 82
Broadmead	C 17 63	Indonesia	C 27 89	Montreal	F 28 82
Budapest	C 25 77	Jerusalem	C 29 84	Montreal	F 29 86
Budapest	C 25 77	Johannesburg	C 22 72	Montreal	F 30 86
Buenos Aires	C 11 52	Karakalpakistan	C 33 95	Montreal	F 31 86
Cairo	C 32 79	Kashgar	C 26 79	Montreal	S 25 77
Calgary	C 19 66	Kiev	C 18 64	Montreal	S 31 88
Caracas	C 30 82	Khartoum	C 17 61	Montreal	C 15 59
Catania	C 23 73	Kuala Lumpur	C 28 84	Montreal	C 28 82
Catania	C 23 73	La Palma	C 24 75	Montreal	F 14 57
Catania	C 23 73	Leeds	C 22 72	Montreal	F 27 81
Catania	C 23 73	Lisbon	C 21 70	Montreal	F 28 82
Catania	C 23 73	London	C 21 70	Montreal	F 29 86
Catania	C 23 73	London	C 21 70	Montreal	F 30 86
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Catania	C 23 73	London	C 21 70	Montreal	F 37 86
Catania	C 23 73	London	C 21 70	Montreal	F 38 86
Catania	C 23 73	London	C 21 70	Montreal	F 39 86
Catania	C 23 73	London	C 21 70	Montreal	F 40 86
Catania	C 23 73	London	C 21 70	Montreal	F 41 86
Catania	C 23 73				

This fox was reared by a Yorkshire hunt for one purpose. To be killed for pleasure

BY KIM SENGUPTA

THESE ARE the frightened eyes of a three-month-old fox cub staring through the bars of a tiny cage where it could barely stand up on the floor of sliding mud. They were to be raised, fed, watered, cared for even, before being released in front of a pack of baying hounds and torn to pieces.

The RSPCA has now started an investigation to find out who was responsible for trapping and keeping a pair of cubs in filthy conditions. Prosecutions for cruelty could follow. But for animal rights activists, the crucial factor is that the discovery was made on land owned by a hunt.

For years, groups such as the League Against Cruel Sports and the RSPCA have heard reports of foxes being caught and kept in captivity to be "spontaneously" hunted. The practice, if proved, would fatally undermine the field sports arguments that the main reason for fox hunting is pest control.

The hunts have denied they do this. Even the creation of artificial earths, used to encourage foxes to settle and breed in a hunting area, was, said Peter Atkinson of the British Field Sports Society, "very much a legacy of the past".

Anti-hunt activists, including the League Against Cruel Sports, have countered with lists of hunts which they claim are using artificial earths to breed foxes to kill. Among those named were the Beaufort Hunt, a favourite of Prince Charles, and the Thirrup Hunt in East Anglia, headed by the food millionaire Edmund Vestey, a chairman of the Masters of the Fox Hounds Association.

But the activists admit that what had been lacking had been irrefutable photographic evidence. Then, last week, the League Against Cruel Sports received a call which promised to provide that elusive proof. The information came from animal rights sympathisers in North Yorkshire. They had stumbled across what appeared to be a baited trap on a piece of land called Muscoates

A fox cub cowers in a trap on land owned by the Simmington Hunt in North Yorkshire

Whin. And that land was owned by the Simmington Hunt.

The League put into practice a plan it had drawn up for exactly this situation. A local representative contacted the people providing the information, while at the same time an undercover operator was dispatched from London. The aim was to get on film the evidence

which would prove for the first time the practice of trapping foxes by hunts.

The 45-year-old undercover operator has been working for the League for 27 years, and has a record of exposing animal cruelty. He very much looks like the part of a country man, with clothes, demeanour and apparent views which would

blend in with hunt supporters in their pubs and clubs. And that is where he gathers information. He does not want his identity revealed. According to the league, half a dozen of his colleagues have been attacked by country sport followers.

The undercover man travelled up to North Yorkshire earlier this week. He mixed with the locals and was taken to the spot where the trap was concealed. The foxes were there, along with some liver used to feed them, and a sheep carcass left nearby.

longed watch, this did not happen. There was also a danger that the agent might get discovered. He said last night: "We decided the thing to do was to carry out our filming. We had enough evidence, and to wait longer could have been counter-productive. The video camera is the best weapon against this kind of thing, it

brings home to people just what kind of cruelty underpins the so-called glamour of hunting, the stirrup cups and the fancy coats.

"I think a lot of those who take part in hunting will feel very uneasy if they can only see what takes place to provide them with their sport."

"The sight of the cubs was

irreducibly残酷.

The League's aim was to witness and film not just the foxes which had been caught, but also the people who had caught them. However, despite a pro-

longed watch, this did not happen.

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"I think a lot of those who

take part in hunting will feel

very uneasy if they can only see

what takes place to provide

them with their sport."

"The sight of the cubs was

terrible. I have been doing this kind of work for 27 years now, but I was very, very shocked.

"They were a awful sight, kept in disgraceful conditions, and very, very frightened. I know that hunting people say when artificial earths are created they should be kept dry, otherwise the animals will suffer and become sick. No such attempt had been made here. The ground was muddy and wet, and the cage was absolutely tiny."

After getting the footage, the RSPCA was alerted and they in turn contacted the police. Yesterday morning an officer from Helmsley police station accompanied RSPCA inspectors when they called on the Simmington Hunt. The masters of the hunt could not be found, but a kennel huntsman and a terrier man were taken to the trap at Muscoates Whin.

Drainage rods had to be used to get the foxes out. They were taken to a vet and found to be suffering from mange. After treatment they would be taken to an animal sanctuary, and released in an area where there is no hunting.

In *Bally's Hunting Directory*, the Simmington Hunt is described as having "several vole coverts which seldom fail to hold a fox". The League's chief officer, Graham Sri said: "They have long boasted about their ability to find foxes for their followers to kill, and now we think we know how they do it. We have long suspected that hunts do this."

Despite that view, it is yet to be proved that the hunt's organisers knew or were responsible for what happened. That is now the subject of the RSPCA inquiry.

Those responsible may face animal cruelty charges both under Wild Mammals Protection Act of 1996 and, because the cubs had been held captive, under the Protection of Animals Act of 1911, which relates to domesticated animals or those in captivity.

A hunt spokeswoman said she was not aware of the discovery of the trap and did not wish to say anything more.

League Against Cruel Sports



Pictured left, a fox is trapped beneath a wire cage, while, right, paving slabs block the entrance to a tunnel.

Centuries-old hunt rides on through the storms of protest

BY LOUISE JURY

THE SINNINGTON Hunt is one of the oldest in Britain, with more than a hundred members regularly riding out on the 360 square miles it covers on the fringe of the North Yorkshire Moors.

Dating back to about 1680, when the then Duke of Buckingham was master, the hunt meets twice a week during the season. On Wednesdays the huntsmen tend to ride out on the low flatlands of the region, with the highlands reserved for Saturdays.

The hunt, which has 50 hounds, has a new Master, Adam Waugh, reputedly a relation of the literary Waugh's, who was appointed this year, alongside Master Andrew Osborne.

Three years ago, the Simmington Hunt was at the centre of controversy when it applied for a £200 grant from Ryedale District Council to improve woodland on hunt land near Pickering, supposedly to provide better cover for foxes.

Some of the land was ancient



The Simmington Hunt in the field. Justin Slee

woodland, which fell into disuse until it was revived as fox cover by the hunt during the last century.

But the application was eventually rejected because members felt it would have been seen as support for the sport. The council decided that the hunt should be self-supporting.

In the early 1990s, the hunt sparked another row when it sought permission to build a bridge over a moorland stream which would have enabled the hunt to cut off a favourite escape route for foxes.

For years from the 1940s, the Countess of Feversham was a

dominant figure in the fortunes

vived in the mid-Nineties. The Countess always rode side-saddle, a pose captured by the painter Raoul Millais in the 1850s. Even in old age, Lady Feversham continued to follow the hunt's progress in the field by car.

Buy a Deskpro before 1st July and we'll go halves on the monitor.



Here's a hot offer for 'flaming June'.

Buy any Compaq Deskpro PC with a Compaq monitor before 1st July and we'll send you a cheque for £104.

That's a rebate of 50% on the typical buying price of our V55 monitor.

For example, suppose you decide on our latest Deskpro EP with Intel® Pentium® II processor and a V55 monitor. After you claim your rebate, it will cost you just £808 ex VAT, £949 inc VAT. Just give us a ring or visit our website for a claim form.

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A festival-goer puts the finishing touches to her make-up outside her tent at Glastonbury '98 in Somerset.

Aids experts denounce vaccine trial

By STEVE CONNOR

Science Editor

A LARGE-SCALE trial of an Aids vaccine has been denounced by leading British scientists as a waste of time and money because few, if any, of the 5,000 volunteers will benefit.

The trial, which began this week, will result in people at risk of Aids in 30 American cities being injected with a prototype vaccine made from a synthetic protein designed to mimic the outer coating of HIV.

VaxGen, a private biotechnology company based in San Francisco, has received approval from the US Food and Drug Administration to go ahead with the phase three trial, which is usually the last

stage before going on sale. It is the first of more than 40 Aids vaccine trials to get this far in the testing procedure. It will be given to half of the volunteers, who are all considered at risk of HIV infection. The other half will be given a harmless placebo.

Neither the scientists nor the volunteers will know who has been given the vaccine and who has the placebo until the end of the 30-month experiment, when the infection rates of the two groups will be compared to see if the vaccine has prevented HIV transmission.

VaxGen said its vaccine is modelled on an HIV protein called gp120. This protein has been of interest to Aids researchers for nearly 15 years because of the possibility of it being used to make vaccines that will stimulate the body's immune defences to attack HIV.

Scientists this month completed the first detailed, three-dimensional images of the structure of gp120. However, the new findings suggest that the VaxGen vaccine will be unable to stimulate an effective immune response in the volunteers because it is too similar to natural gp120.

Attempts to develop an Aids vaccine have met with problems because of the unique nature of HIV. It mutates rapidly, even within one person, so evading the best efforts of a vaccine to stimulate effective immunity.

Andrew McMichael, professor of immunology at Oxford University and one of Britain's leading experts in Aids vaccine research, said: "I think the leading immunologists and virologists in the field are pretty unanimous in their view. The likelihood that [the vaccine] is

not going to do anything is quite high."

Professor McMichael said the reasons why the trial is going ahead are more to do with "business and politics" than with science.

The vaccine is supposed to work by stimulating a patient's antibodies to attack the gp120 protein on HIV. However, the natural protein and the synthetic vaccine are too different for this to work with any great effect.

"On theoretical grounds the chances are low. But preliminary trials earlier this year suggested that some vaccinated people still became infected. So really there was quite good negative evidence that this was not an effective vaccine," he said.

The reservations about vaccines based on gp120 are shared by dozens of American Aids specialists who recently signed a letter to the journal Science supporting a decision not to begin trials until problems with the vaccine's potency can be resolved.

Attempts to develop an Aids vaccine have met with problems because of the unique nature of HIV. It mutates rapidly, even within one person, so evading the best efforts of a vaccine to stimulate effective immunity.

Albert Sabin, who pioneered the development of a polio vaccine, warned just before he died in 1993 that it would be virtually impossible for any Aids vaccine to work. The virus he said was also able to escape the immune defences by infecting the cells that are sent to destroy it.



*"She sounds a little rough,
Mrs. Tope"*

Billy-Jo's breath 'spattered blood'

TINY SPOTS of blood found on clothes worn by Sian Jenkins could have been created as his foster daughter, Billy-Jo, breathed over him when he found her bludgeoned body, a court was told yesterday.

Bloodspots caused by Billy-Jo Jenkins breathing out would look "very similar" to those caused by "impact spatter" created as she was being hit by her killer, forensic expert Duncan McMurtry told a jury at Lewes Crown Court.

Sian Jenkins, 40, denies murdering 13-year-old Billy-Jo at their home in Hastings, East Sussex on 15 February last year.

The prosecution alleges that 158 spots found on Mr Jenkins's

jacket and trousers were created in a "blood mist" of impact spatter as he repeatedly struck Billy-Jo about the head with an 18-inch metal tent spike.

Mr McMurtry agreed with Camden Prat QC, prosecuting, that the blood spots could have been caused by impact spatter.

"I have considered whether they could have got there as a result of her exhaling droplets of blood from the nose or whether this is a combination of both blood splattering and exhaling. I cannot say."

Mr McMurtry agreed that it was "unlikely" that the blood spots could have been caused by a bubble of blood bursting from within Billy-Jo's nostril.

IN BRIEF

Boy, 12, charged with murdering 9-year-old

A 12-YEAR-OLD boy appeared in a court yesterday charged with murdering a nine-year-old boy.

The accused, who cannot be named for legal reasons, was remanded in custody after making a private appearance at Hamilton Sheriff Court. The charge is in connection with the death of Charles Fall, from Uddington, who was found with severe burns on 3 June. He died 15 days later.

Social worker 'raped girl'

A SOCIAL worker raped one vulnerable 14-year-old girl and indecently assaulted others while they were in his care, a court was told yesterday. Andrew Wilkinson, 34, abused his position of trust at a children's home where he worked in Wakefield, West Yorkshire. Leeds Crown Court was told that he went into their bedrooms at night and kissed and touched them. He denies eight charges of indecent assault and one of rape. The case continues.

Butcher 'no Machiavelli'

BUTCHER John Barr, whose shop was implicated in a food poisoning outbreak that killed up to 21 elderly people, was no "Machiavellian" figure, his lawyer said yesterday. Advocate John Thomson also apologised for the outbreak on Mr Barr's behalf in his closing submission to the inquiry in Motherwell. The findings will be delivered next month.

Autistic man's detention justified

HOSPITAL DOCTORS were legally entitled to detain "informally" a 48-year-old autistic man who lacked the ability to "consent or dissent" to treatment, the House of Lords ruled yesterday. In a judgment affecting thousands of patients admitted to hospital on an "informal" basis, five Law Lords unanimously agreed that the decision in Mr L's case was justified by "necessity".

Reader borrows book for 65 years

A PENSIONER took advantage of a library's fines amnesty to return volume he had been trying to finish for 65 years. The man borrowed Robert Louis Stevenson's *Kidnapped* in 1933, from Urmston Library in Manchester, and claimed he had been trying to finish it ever since. Anne Slater, principal library assistant, said: "Without the amnesty he would have owed us £1,200."

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Docklands bomber free in two years

AN IRA terrorist, who was jailed for 25 years yesterday for helping carry out the Docklands bombing, is only expected to serve about two years behind bars.

James McArdle, 29, who was convicted for his "crucial role" in the massive explosion in February 1996 that killed two, injured dozens, and caused £150m of damage in east London, is likely to benefit from the Good Friday peace agreement.

Official sources have indicated that people convicted

BY JASON BENNETT
Crime Correspondent

since the agreement will probably have to spend no more than three years in jail.

Once the Northern Ireland (Sentences) Bill, currently going through Parliament, is passed, paramilitary prisoners held in the province will be eligible for release after two years.

McArdle, who has shown no remorse for his actions, would have to meet specific condi-

tions, including undertaking not to support the IRA or carry out further acts of terrorism.

Unionist politicians were divided last night on the prospect of McArdle being freed in two years. Democratic Unionists, opposed to the peace deal, were outraged, but Ken Maginnis, security spokesman for the Ulster Unionists, who signed up to the agreement, said: "There is a bigger picture than James McArdle."

In what could be the last big IRA trial, McArdle, a bricklayer from Crossmaglen, Co Armagh, was convicted at Woolwich Crown Court, east London, on Wednesday of conspiring with others unknown to cause explosions.

But the judge yesterday discharged the jury from returning verdicts on charges that he murdered Brian Breathnach and John Jeffries - the two newsagents who died in the blast - because of what John Bevan QC, prosecuting, described as a "clear and flagrant contempt" in the Sun newspaper.

The two outstanding charges are to lay on the file and are unlikely ever to be retried.

The detonation of a lorry packed with a tonne of explosives, on the evening of 9 February, was heralded by a series of "inaccurate and wholly inadequate warnings".

Mr Justice Kay, the trial judge, said he hoped the fact that McArdle was being sentenced at a time when the IRA campaign of terror could be coming to an end may offer a "crumb of comfort to those

who suffered so much as a result of your actions".

He went on: "But nothing can realistically comfort the families of the two men who died and the many others who were injured and whose lives were marred by the dreadful explosion".

McArdle, although not very intelligent, was considered a competent, skilled, and trusted member of the bombing team to take the lorry packed with explosives from Northern Ireland to London.

On the trip the IRA unit stopped the transporter in which the bomb was hidden in River Road, Barking, East London, so that the bomb-maker could fit the timers and detonator before the final journey. But the IRA's bomb was noticed while on the wasteland at River Road by another lorry driver, Arthur Ward. Two days after the bombing, police published a drawing of the lorry and Mr Ward telephoned the police. Hidden inside the tyre the IRA team had dumped were tachographs which charted the vehicle's journey from Belfast via ferry to Stranraer, then to Carlisle and on to London. There was also a magazine bearing McArdle's thumbprint. Police also discovered two other thumb prints - one on an ashtray and another on a ferry ticket stub.

But McArdle - by now known to officers as the Triple Thumbprint Man - eluded police for 14 months until he was identified as the owner of the prints.

TV industry braced for new assault from BSkyB

THE GOVERNMENT played a populist game yesterday by extending the protection of football for viewers of BBC and ITV while confirming it would allow Test match cricket to be bought up by BSkyB.

Broadcasting industry fears will now turn to the likelihood that Rupert Murdoch's Sky channel will try to buy up other television institutions and star names.

Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, rejected proposals from a government-appointed committee to allow World Cup matches other than the final, semi-final and home-national matches to be bought up by pay-TV channels.

Under the proposals, games like the Iran v USA World Cup match which last week attracted 10 million viewers would only have been available to subscribers to pay channels.

Mr Smith also added the European Championships to the fully protected list. He said: "I have also concluded that many of the matches in the World Cup and European Championships football qualifying tournaments meet the criteria for listing."

"I believe that it is important that crucial ties in these competitions should be available to all viewers and I therefore intend to seek Europe-wide arrangements for protecting free-to-air live broadcasts of crucial matches in these competitions."

The decision on football will come as a blow to BSkyB which relies heavily on football fans for its viewers. According to industry reports, Sky Sports has

BY PAUL McCANN
Media Editor

lost a mammoth 78 per cent of its viewers during June because of the World Cup finals.

England coach Glenn Hoddle expressed his approval for the package. "I'm delighted when the biggest possible audience sees England's vital matches," he said. "Any plans that ensure that happens in the future, I welcome. I know it is what the fans want. So do I."

However, the decision to place Test match cricket on a newly created "B-list" of partially protected events will almost certainly allow cricket coverage to go to the highest television bidder after 50 years on the BBC.

The B-list will mean cricket appearing as highlights or delayed on terrestrial television after being shown first by the owner of the five rights.

Mr Smith said: "I have asked the Independent Television Commission to consider setting a minimum acceptable standard for such secondary coverage, to include some combination of delayed full coverage, highlights and five radio commentary."

Included on the B-list of



Sky recognises the importance of star names like David Jason (left), Cilla Black and Jeremy Paxman if it is to attract big audiences to its entertainment channel



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Sky recognises the importance of star names like David Jason (left), Cilla Black and Jeremy Paxman if it is to attract big audiences to its entertainment channel

events is Five Nations rugby union matches, golf's Ryder Cup and the cricket World Cup, all of which have been bought up by BSkyB for its Sky Sports channel.

Now that Sky has all the sports it can get, the fear is that the satellite broadcaster's inflationary buying tactics in the sporting world will now spread to other programme genres.

Elisabeth Murdoch, Sky's general manager, is deter-

mined to turn her general entertainment channel, Sky One, into a serious rival to BBC 1, ITV and Channel 5.

The satellite channel is launching a digital format in September so that it will then be available via cable and traditional analogue satellite.

Once it is in enough homes, Ms Murdoch wants to stop relying on bought-in American shows like *The Simpsons* and *ER*. British audiences are one of the most resistant in the world to foreign programming and Sky knows it needs to attract big British shows and stars.

Ms Murdoch gave warning of her plans two weeks ago. "We've increased our original programming budget by 100 per cent this year," she said.

"A broadcaster has to be relevant to the community it serves, you cannot do that if you

rely solely on acquired programming - people may as well go into a video store."

Every time Granada's contract for *Coronation Street* comes up for re-negotiation with the ITV Network a flurry of scare stories appear about it moving to Sky. And it is undoubtedly true that Sky would snap up the soap if it had the

opportunity. Sky has already secured the services of one television institution, the film critic Barry Norman, and has in the past shown interest in Des Lynam and Jeremy Paxman.

Because Sky has managed to find a new way of funding a television business - by subscription rather than advertising, its pockets are deep. It is forecast

to make £290m in profits this year and so will increasingly target the kind of programmes that will help sell its services. As well as established stars like Cilla Black or David Jason, the channel is likely to have in its sights the kind of performers who bring in the young affluent audiences who are happy to pay for television channels.

If Sky cannot attract the stars to its fold, its interest will push up prices for terrestrial broadcasters.

Electricity pylons 'pose health risk'

ELECTRICITY PYLONS and power lines do pose a cancer risk, a heavyweight panel of American experts has concluded. Their decision, announced yesterday, was welcomed by some British experts, but sparked renewed argument over a subject that has lingered on the fringes of scientific proof for 20 years.

After ten days of discussions to consider evidence from studies all over the world, a 22-member panel of the prestigious National Institutes of Health (NIH) voted by 19 to nine that electric fields such as those around power lines should be considered possible human carcinogens. Only one of the nine dissenting panel members thought the evidence was against a link; the other eight said the conflicting evidence left them undecided.

Professor Denis Henshaw, a British scientist who first suggested a possible mechanism by which overhead high-voltage cables could cause cancers, said yesterday that the decision will be important for the 23,000 people in the UK who live within 50 metres of a pylon. "The question becomes one of whether power companies owe a duty of care to people who are affected by them. We should look to countries like Sweden which have a policy of avoidance of putting homes next to pylons."

But Dr Michael Clark, a spokesman for the National Radiological Protection Board, the Government's radiation adviser, said the evidence was not

BY CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

convincing. "We continue to support research in this area, but our view is that there is no firm evidence of a cancer risk."

Last autumn a number of legal cases filed by Britons who live near pylons and have developed cancers were thrown out of court. That decision was based on a US National Research Council report, in which a different panel of scientists evaluated about 500 studies on the health effects of high-voltage power lines and found "no conclusive and consistent evidence" that electric and magnetic fields cause any human disease.

However, in 1996 Professor Henshaw led a team which found that the electric fields emanating from high-voltage power lines concentrate car and industrial fumes into clusters of dangerous gases which increase the risk of cancer. They reported that carcinogenic pollutants were attracted to power lines "like bees round a honey pot".

Alasdair Philips, director of

consumer watchdog Powerwatch, said the authorities should at least accept that there was "reasonable doubt" over the safety of pylons and take necessary precautions.

"I think we should stop building new housing near electric pylons and stop putting up the pylons near residential areas," he said.

Professor Henshaw reckons that the "danger zone", in which the electric field is particularly strong, extends about 50 metres from any overhead pylon or unshielded substation. "Two hundred metres is too far away to be worth worrying about," he said. The electric field falls off rapidly with distance: it would be 16 times less at 200 metres than 50 metres. Also, people are not at risk while inside a house, because the fields cannot penetrate building materials.

The National Grid Company, which owns the power lines, said last night: "Other studies have found that there is no likely link between electric fields and human health. Far more studies have found no link than those which have."

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DONALD MACINTYRE

'It would be ironic if the Sun has performed its greatest service to the centre left by helping to weaken the Conservatives'

— THE FRIDAY REVIEW, PAGE 3 →

Barrister monopoly ended by Irvine

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

THE LORD Chancellor, Lord Irvine, yesterday took action to break the near-monopoly barristers have on appearances in the higher courts.

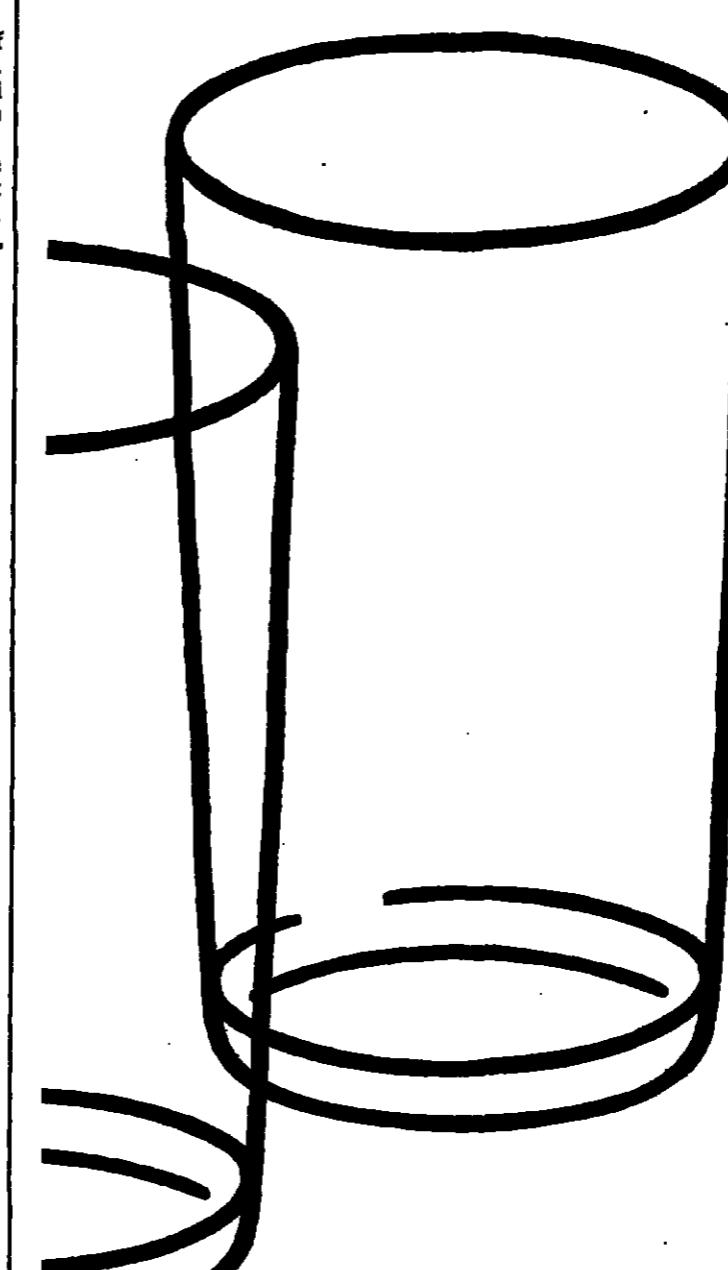
In a move to cut legal costs, Lord Irvine unveiled plans to allow 2,000 lawyers directly employed by the Crown Prosecution Service, the Serious Fraud Office, local councils and companies to argue their own cases in front of judges.

At present, as employed barristers, they have no "rights of audience" in any court above a magistrates' and must hire another barrister to appear on their behalf. The move would boost competition and could force a cut in barristers' fees.

Lord Irvine said the current system was run in the interests of lawyers, not the public, and needed reform.

"Antiquated restrictions on which lawyers can appear in the higher courts, which force people to pay for two lawyers in cases where one would do, can have no place in this system."

The Law Society, representing solicitors in England and Wales, "warmly welcomed" the Lord Chancellor's proposals, which will allow more qualified solicitors to present cases in the higher courts. Just 634 out of 70,000 solicitors have been granted rights of audience in higher courts under current rules, the society said.



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Coal industry wins a stay of execution

New energy policy offers little hope for miners in the long-term. By Michael Harrison

WHEN THE history of British coal comes to be written, will yesterday's rescue package be remembered as a turning point in its fortunes or the last gasp of a dying industry?

Brave and defiant though the words were from the pit communities, it is hard to see the measures announced in the Commons by the President of the Board of Trade, Margaret Beckett, as anything more than the most temporary of reprieves.

Torn between its old Labour instincts to defend an industry that has deep roots within the movement and its new Labour desire to appear pro-competition and pro-consumer, the Government has contrived something that will spare its blushes. But will it save the miners?

The generators will buy some more coal - but at nothing like the levels seen in previous years - in return for what ministers will make it more difficult for new competition, in the shape of gas-fired power station operators, to enter the market for the next three years. At the same time, the wholesale electricity mar-



The Government's energy policy will spare it embarrassment, but the measures represent only a temporary reprieve for coal miners

ket, or "pool" as it is known, will be reformed with the aim of creating a more level playing field that does not discriminate against coal.

Those hoping to see the Gov-

ernment guarantee coal a set share of the energy market, will be reformed with the aim of creating a more level playing field that does not discriminate against coal.

After six months of deliber-

ations, numerous drafts and a last-minute reprimand from the Prime Minister Tony Blair, Mrs Beckett and the other architect of yesterday's statement, the Paymaster General, Geoffrey Robinson, have backed away

from anything that smacks of dirigisme, prescriptive intervention in a free market.

They have also concluded that forcing the generators to dispose of coal-fired plants to others is no guarantee of a

bigger market for coal. Three years ago PowerGen and National Power sold 6,000 megawatts of capacity to Eastern, the former electricity company, since when the market for coal has continued

to contract, while pool prices have not come down.

Finally, they were deterred from imposing a blanket ban on gas by the prospect of a judicial review by gas station developers and the negative signals such a move would send out to inward investors.

The theory is that coal plants with low marginal costs will be called on more often, producing a bigger market for coal and cheaper electricity. But this process will take up to three years to bed down, during which time the Government will sacrifice the environmental benefits and boost to competition that more gas-fired stations would bring. Only gas-fired plants which operate as combined heat and power stations are likely to be viewed kindly under the new licensing regime.

Ministers, miners and MPs all knew that when the long-term coal supply contracts between the generators and the coal producers, principally Richard Budge's RJB Mining, came to an end this spring, there would be a gaping hole to fill.

The seeds of the coal industry's demise lie not so much in Mrs Thatcher's victory over the miners in the early Eighties but in the manner in which her administration chose to privatise the electricity industry seven years later.

In 1992 "old king coal" still commanded two-thirds of the electricity generating market, against a measly 1.4 per cent for gas. By last year coal's share had dropped to a third, while gas was pushing 30 per cent.

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By allowing generation to be sold off as a duopoly between National Power and PowerGen, it gave the regional electricity suppliers every incentive to build their own generating capacity so as not to be held to

ransom. This they did with gusto, erecting cheap gas-fired stations with abandon and ensuring that they ran by bidding them into the wholesale electricity market at zero price.

Today there are 12,000 megawatts of gas-fired capacity in service. And enough new capacity will come on stream in the next five years to extinguish another 25 million tonnes of coal burn and take gas's share of the market to well over 40 per cent.

What the new energy policy is designed to do is prevent that share from rising to 60 per cent by 2010 and 75 per cent by 2020.

The key to this will be the reform of the electricity pool. Instead of a system whereby generators simply bid in prices giving them an incentive to keep prices higher than they need to be - electricity will operate like other markets for goods and services, with generators posting the prices at which they will sell and suppliers the price at which they will buy.

The theory is that coal plants with low marginal costs will be called on more often, producing a bigger market for coal and cheaper electricity. But this process will take up to three years to bed down, during which time the Government will sacrifice the environmental benefits and boost to competition that more gas-fired stations would bring. Only gas-fired plants which operate as combined heat and power stations are likely to be viewed kindly under the new licensing regime.

Ministers, miners and MPs all knew that when the long-term coal supply contracts between the generators and the coal producers, principally Richard Budge's RJB Mining, came to an end this spring, there would be a gaping hole to fill. By a series of short-term fixes, the Government staved off the threat of Mr Budge announcing up to eight pit closures and 5,000 job losses in the run-up to last Christmas.

Today, Britain has the bones of a new energy policy. But nobody is betting that yesterday's fudge will save Budge in the long- or even medium-term.

Those 5,000 miners' jobs may not disappear tomorrow. But many of them are likely to be gone in the next 12 to 18 months.

Outlook, page 19

Rob Stratton

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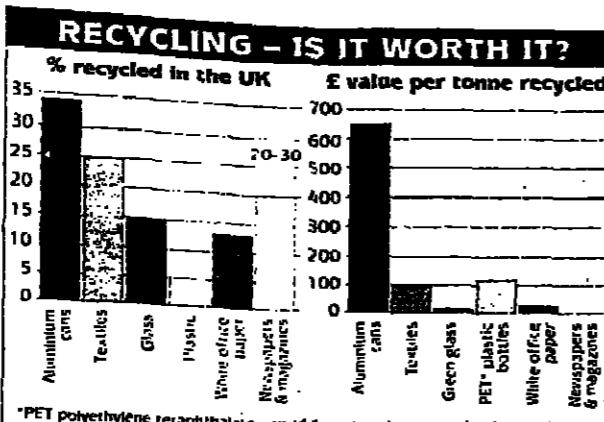
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Kerbside recycling hit by fall in prices for waste

THE MARKET for waste paper has collapsed and is bringing down local councils' recycling schemes with it, the environmental pressure group Friends of the Earth said yesterday.

Recycled paper is now fetching at most £5 per ton and sometimes nothing, FoE said, meaning that some local authorities have had to abandon collection schemes as they cannot recover their costs.

A survey of 219 councils carried out by the group last month showed that more than one in 10 had ceased a kerbside collection of waste paper; more than one in 10 had closed paper banks, and one in three had abandoned plans to expand paper recycling.

This, FoE points out, is despite the Government's intention in its draft waste strategy, published two weeks ago, to increase recycling "substantially". The group is calling for the Government to intervene in the market, and in particular for it to set a much higher mandatory target for the use of

BY MICHAEL McCARTHY
Environment Correspondent

recycled paper in the newspaper industry.

Since 1991 the Newspaper Publishers' Association, which represents the big national dailies, has had a voluntary target of 40 per cent of newsprint to be made up of recycled paper by the year 2000; this has been exceeded: newspapers currently use about 43 per cent. The Newspaper Publishers' Association hopes to agree a new target for the recycled content of newsprint with the Government this year.

FoE wants the present target to be doubled to 80 per cent, and with two other groups, Waste Watch and the Community Recycling Network, is supporting a Private Member's Bill which will be introduced in the House of Commons on 3 July by David Chaytor, Labour MP for Bury North, in an attempt to bring this about.

"Dumping waste paper instead of recycling leaves us with

more and more polluting rubbish tips," said Mike Childs, Friends of the Earth's waste campaigner. "The Government's commitment to increase recycling is in early trouble, with schemes around the country collapsing. The Government has the power to

take action and they must do."

But it is not that simple, according to David Symmers of the Independent Waste Paper Processors' Association.

The price of waste paper has dropped, Mr Symmers said, partly because the price of Indonesian wood pulp has fallen

steeply with the fall in the Indonesian currency and the price of waste paper is linked to the world price of pulp.

"But it's also one of the clearest links you can see between supply and demand," he said. "If all the local authorities in Britain run round and collect

it, it will just oversupply the market. There's nowhere for it to go and the price will drop."

"Collecting waste paper isn't recycling. Recycling is when it's been made into a product which has a use. And at the moment there is more waste paper than there is a use for."

Britain uses 4.3 million tons of waste annually in a production of 6.2 million tons of paper.

Mr Symmers said: "a high proportion in European terms" - and expanding that was difficult, partly because there were very few paper mills in Britain, he explained.

Crushed cans are prepared for recycling at an educational centre on waste and the environment in Hackney, east London. Andrew Buurman

Photo: PA



Memo to my successor: you're welcome to the job

UNTIL YESTERDAY the last time I heard my successor as Member of Parliament for Cleethorpes speak was on the night of my defeat and her election, when she proposed, and I seconded, the vote of thanks to the returning officer.

There were two productions in the Commons on which new Blair babe, Shona McIsaac (Lab, Cleethorpes), wanted to speak, and on both occasions I realised how lucky I was to be dumped by the voters of Cleethorpes.

First, Ms McIsaac, Scottish, 33, red-haired, wearing orange jacket, black skirt and stockings, had to participate in the planted-question farce during Treasury questions.

She had question number six. "If the Chancellor will make a statement on the representations he has received on his plans to reform employees' national insurance contributions." Surprise, surprise, every single word of this question was exactly the same as those of question number two, in the name of another Blair babe, Joan Ryan (Lab, Enfield North). Obviously the Labour whips cannot remember when they have already planted a question with one woman member, and give out the identical question to another – all their women MPs must look the same.

The Chancellor said: "With permission, Madam Speaker, I will

answer questions two and six together." We could have saved a bit of time if Ms McIsaac and Ms Ryan had stood up together and read out in unison, like Pinky and Perky: "Madam Speaker, we would like to sing our identically worded planted questions together."

Then followed the statement by the President of the Board of Trade, Margaret Beckett, on future fuel policy. It was long and complicated and took Mrs Beckett nearly 15 minutes to deliver. Boiled down, I think it meant that while the coal industry will be given no subsidy, it will have a fairer and more level playing field at the expense of gas-fired power stations.

THE SKETCH



MICHAEL BROWN

The minute Mrs Beckett rose, as a privileged member of the Press Gallery, I was given a copy of her

statement and so knew what was coming. I could even put my pen down and concentrate on her excellent dress sense (silver two-piece trouser suit, long silky white scarf), attractive hairstyle and confident speaking manner, as she battened on her usual territory of sticky wickets.

I know it is not fashionable to say, but I am a fully paid-up fan of Mrs Beckett, who deftly keeps the left wing of the Labour party under control. Tony Benn (Lab, Chesterfield), Dennis Skinner (Lab, Bolsover) and other old Labour mining members did not give her a particularly hard time. Only Mr Skinner suggested, ever so gently,

the ultimate option of the renationalisation of coal – quickly rejected by Mrs Beckett.

Further support came from an unlikely quarter in the shape of Nicholas Winterton (Con, Macclesfield), who used the opportunity to be nice to Mrs Beckett in order to have a go at his old arch-enemy, Michael Heseltine. He usefully reminded Labour MPs that Mr Heseltine had done more than anyone else to scupper the coal industry.

John Redwood, the shadow industry spokesman, berated Mrs Beckett with a series of metaphors. "We were promised an elephant of a policy. We have been given a mouse ... minister playing across the line of the spin from Number Ten ... batman caught out."

Poor Shona McIsaac, unlike me, did not have an advance copy of the statement and had to listen furiously taking notes. Mrs Beckett was ending the future development of the gas-powered stations and was stuffing her constituency.

Ms McIsaac spent a wasted hour jumping up and down trying, unsuccessfully, to catch Madam Speaker's eye. I felt very sorry for her as Betty closed the show down.

I realised what a dog's life it is being the new member for Cleethorpes. I'll stick to the Press Gallery, Shona. No more trouble from me!

Telegram rebuke for Cook

ROBIN COOK was rebuked by an all-party committee of MPs yesterday after refusing to hand over telegrams relating to the Sierra Leone affair.

However, the Foreign Affairs Committee was increasingly embroiled in internal battles last night after a Labour member was accused of blocking a Conservative MP's questions on the affair. The committee said it was "wrong in principle" that the Government had not met its demands for information. Mr Cook dismissed the report as being "over the top".

The committee may now follow up with a call for a Commons debate on the issue. MPs are increasingly frustrated by the Government's insistence that it cannot hand over the telegrams sent by British last year after they were forced by a coup to leave Sierra Leone.

Ministers said they favoured a peaceful solution, but British mercenaries shipped arms to the exiled government in breach of a UN embargo, and there are claims of collusion by the Foreign Office.

The Foreign Secretary has insisted that he will hand over the telegrams from Britain's High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, Peter Pentland, once an inquiry into the affair by Sir Thomas Legg is over.

But despite anger on the committee, there is little it can do. Yesterday, its chairman, Donald Anderson (Lab, Swansea East) said members would meet next Tuesday to decide what action to take next. Its options could include asking the Leader of the House, Ann Taylor, to intervene, calling Mr Cook before the committee or using a short Commons debate to address the issue. The strongest sanction available would be a technical motion to cut Mr Cook's salary, which would be bound to fail because of Labour's large majority.

Diane Abbott (Lab, Hackney North) said the rights of independent select committees were under attack. "The Gov-

SIERRA LEONE
By FRAN ABRAMS
Political Correspondent

ernment has given the unfortunate impression that it is seeking to hide behind the Legg inquiry to avoid a wider public inquiry into the Sierra Leone affair. There are important issues of principle at stake," she said.

The Liberal Democrat on the committee, David Heath (Somerton and Frome) said: "This is no longer primarily a question about Sierra Leone. [It is about] the conduct of ministers and ... parliamentary scrutiny."

However, much of Tuesday's meeting is likely to be taken up by a row over a separate development, in which Ernie Ross (Lab, Dundee West) prevented Sir John Stanley (Con, Tonbridge and Malling) from asking questions about the roles of intelligence and military advisers.

Yesterday Sir John said Mr Ross had invoked a procedure not used formally for 60 years.

"The significance of that precedent is immense. In my view it lights a blowtorch at the integrity of the entire select committee system," he said.

Sir John has written to the Commons Procedure Committee to complain. Mr Ross denied that he had been asked to block Sir John's questions. "It's quite clear to me that this committee has a great deal of work to do. Some of my colleagues have got an obsession with this matter and they stopped us getting on with that work," he said.

Last night, Mr Cook said he had offered the select committee the chance to inspect the documents and to receive a summary of them once the Legg inquiry was over. That went further than other secretaries of state had done in similar circumstances, he said.

"I am glad the select committee welcomes that offer but it is unreasonable for it to demand the documents while they are before the inquiry of Sir Thomas Legg," he said.

Costs at No 10
THE TOTAL staff costs for Number 10 were £3.4m in 1996-97 and £4.1m in 1997-98. Estimated costs for 1998/9 are £4.9m, the Prime Minister told Malcolm Bruce, the Liberal Democrat Treasury spokesman.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Twin birth rates

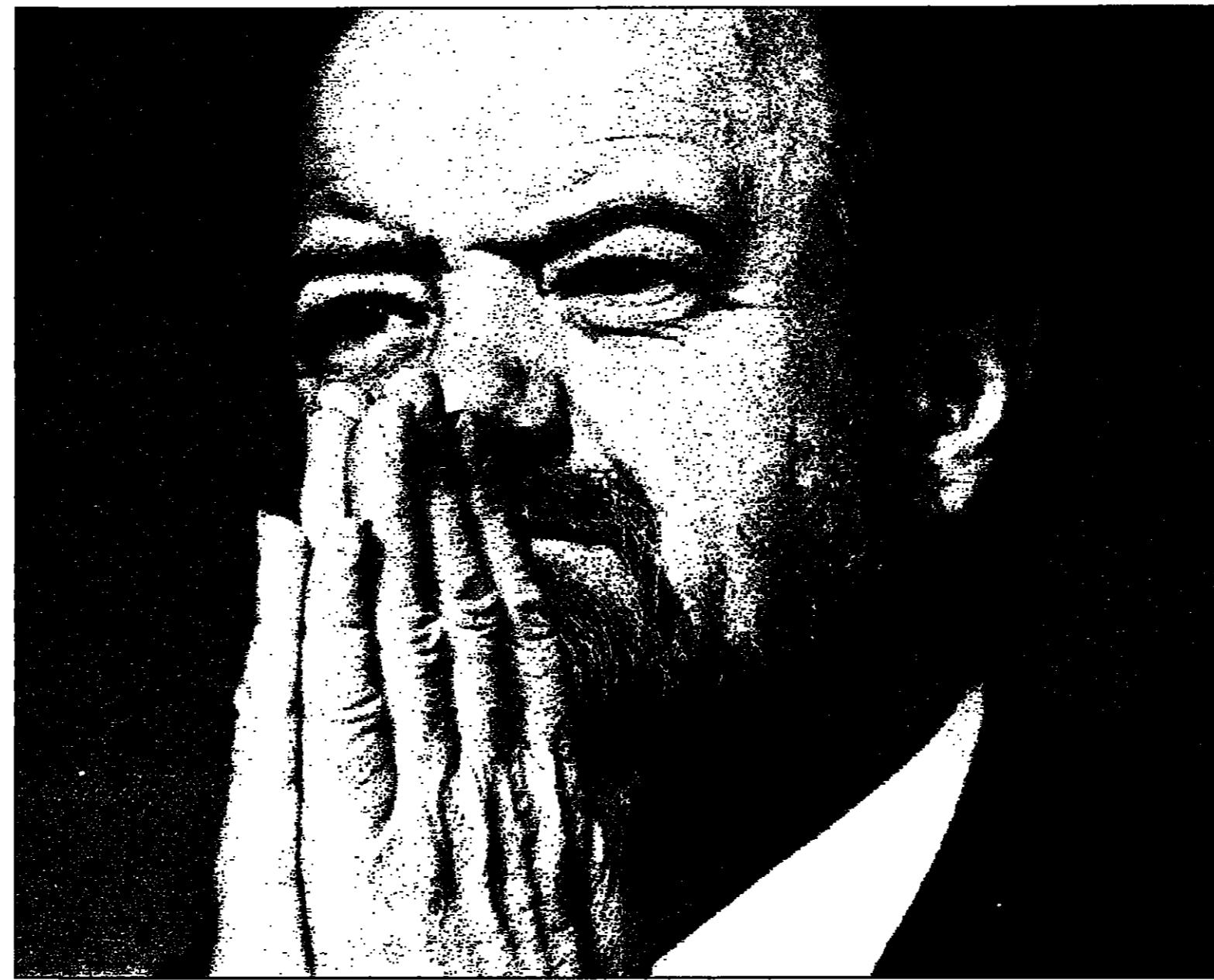
THE NUMBER of women who gave birth to twins rose from 7,333 in 1990 to 8,406 in 1997, the health minister Paul Boateng told Dafydd Wigley (PC, Caernarfon). The number of triplets rose from 190 to 279 in the same period.

Dome sponsors

MORE THAN £100m of private-sector sponsorship for the Millennium Experience has been committed so far, and it is expected to achieve its sponsorship target of £150m by the end of the year. Peter Mandelson told Austin Mitchell (Lab, Great Grimsby).

Tourism income

TOURISM ACCOUNTED for 2.8 per cent of the UK's gross domestic product in 1995 – £17,603m, the culture, media and sport minister Tom Clarke told Geraldine Smith (Lab, Morecambe and Lunesdale).



Robin Cook, who is under pressure after refusing to hand over telegrams relating to the Sierra Leone affair

Ian Torrance

Labour backs minicab Bill

PLANS TO regulate London minicabs were given surprise last-minute support by the Government after senior Cabinet members supported plans to push the necessary legislation through the Commons.

The Prime Minister, Tony Blair, and the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, had been expected to block Liberal Democrat moves to give the Bill, and another on energy efficiency, as much parliamentary time as they needed.

Mr Blair, Mr Brown, John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, and Ann Taylor put their names to an amendment saying "the existing procedure and time available for private members' bills should not be altered". Such proposals should be examined

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS

BY SAM COATES

Bill that would require mortgage lenders to carry out energy surveys. In response, the Liberal Democrats put forward a scheme to rescue the Bills, by giving up one of the few days they can set Commons business to debate the issue.

She said the Government was happy to be associated with this legislation, which it had helped draft.

If members acted co-operatively there could well be time for several of those Bills to complete their passage through this House on that day 13 July – when the matter comes up for debate again and proceed to the House of Lords.

"Unfortunately, I think there may be one or two members who may still be intending to ob-

ject to those Bills on 3 July, but I think it is important they know how strong the feeling is in the rest of the House."

Following the Government's decision not to oppose the amendment, the Liberal Democrat proposal was passed without objection.

Urging the Government to accept the Liberal Democrats' amendment, Paul Tyler (Corwall North) said that the Bills had considerable cross-party support, including the backing of the Prime Minister.

He added that they also had strong public support, the legislation had been fully considered in committee and was totally uncontroversial. "All parts of the House, all members, of any party and of no

party, do have a responsibility to reflect public concern about the way that we handle our business here, and that includes public members' bills."

The changes will significantly affect the lives of millions of people for the better, the spokesman Jackie Ballard (Lab Dem, Taunton) told the Commons.

It is currently illegal for an employer to conduct a full criminal check on records of drivers. Last year, there were 67 people arrested and 18 raped in minicabs in London.

Mr Ballard pointed out that there had been no credible opposition to the Bill, "except for the reaction of one honourable member [Mr Forth], who I note is not in his place today."

Ministerial secrecy criticised

MINISTERS ARE still blocking MPs' questions despite commitments to freedom of information, a Commons committee said last night.

The Public Administration Committee said MPs may find it just as difficult to get information from the Government after the Freedom of Information legislation became law.

Ironically, members of the public would have more right to know than MPs, who might have to abandon their system of written questions, resorting instead to paying a fee for information as the public will do under the new law.

The committee surveyed 120 questions that ministers re-

OPEN GOVERNMENT

BY FRAN ABRAMS

fused to answer in 1996-97, but when it asked departments to explain why, all but two refused on the grounds that they could not comment on the actions of the previous government.

The reply from the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine – one of the respondents who did try to explain – showed that in most cases Labour ministers would have blocked the questions just as their predecessors had.

"In most cases the minister's response would have been the same in this session as it was in the last session under the

previous Government," the report said. "In general, the responses do not seem to sit well with the commitment of freedom of information to which they all refer."

Because the MPs' system would remain broadly the same under the new system while the public would have much more access to information, ordinary citizens might be in a better position, the report said.

"We are disappointed by this failure by many departments to adopt a practice accepted by the Government," the report added.

Among the subjects on which the previous government refused to answer from the public request in Parliament, Ministers should continue to be held to account in Parliament," it said.

The committee also complained that government departments were still failing to cite the relevant part of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information when refusing to answer MPs' questions.

Usually they cited commercial confidentiality, security or the confidentiality of law enforcement operations, it said.

"We are disappointed by this failure by many departments to adopt a practice accepted by the Government," the report added.

Benefit errors costing millions

THE HOUSE

The action is seen as a test case in the nationwide controversy sparked by plans for millions of new homes in the 21st century.

Child deaths

A LEADING paediatrician has urged the Government not to back down over plans to penalise motorists for excessive car use.

Dr Ian Roberts, of Great Ormond Street Hospital, has written an open letter to Tony Blair, pointing out the high number of child deaths that are caused by cars. He said youngsters from the lowest socioeconomic group were five times more likely to be killed on the road than those from the highest.

The House is not sitting today.

ON WEDNESDAY IT WAS THEM.

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Match 5	506	£14,333	£726,098
Match 4	30,385	£52	£1,580,020
Match 3	534,841	£10	£5,348,410
TOTALS	565,742	£12,584,722	

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(see Friday Review, music section.)

مكالمات من الأدلة

Welcome to Libreville, the capital of Gabon where the cost of living is as high as London



Libreville, where expatriates and the élite pay inflated prices for imported quality goods, has always been one of the world's most expensive cities Bruno Barbey/Magnum

LONDON HAS climbed into the top 10 of the world's most expensive cities - where it has joined Libreville, the capital of Gabon, in joint sixth position.

The West African city, where the privileged lead a life of luxury financed by Gabon's huge oil reserves, is no stranger to such a lofty position.

London, however, because of the high value of the sterling, has shot up from 14th position to its highest spot for 20 years, according to a survey carried out by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).

The escalating cost of food, drink, entertainment and public transport is also to blame for the elevated ranking of England's capital.

The cost of living in London now compares unfavourably to

BY LINUS GREGORIADIS

most other European cities where costs have stayed roughly the same in the past few months - making the capital now more expensive than Paris.

Gabon, an oil-producing country with a wealthy élite, was once the administrative centre of the French colonies in West Africa. Though many people have never heard of Libreville, its ranking as one of the world's most expensive cities is nothing new.

Virginia Thorp, editor of the EIU's *Worldwide Cost of Living Survey*, said: "Expatriates who are mostly there because of the oil industry are a small, captive market. Quality goods have to be imported and the

A TALE OF TWO COSTLY CITIES		
Ten most expensive	London	Libreville
1. (1) Tokyo	9m Population	350,000
2. (2) Osaka	£2.56 Litre of beer at shop price	80p
3. (5) Hong Kong	£287 Top hotel room for night	£73
4. (3) Oslo	£140 Two-course meal for two in top restaurant	£202
5. (6) Zurich	£3.36 20 cigarettes	92p
6. (14) London	£565 56cm Television	£1,025
(6) Libreville	Libreville prices converted to Sterling from local currency	
(10) Geneva		
(4) Moscow		

prices are inflated. Libreville has always been one of the most expensive cities."

Ms Thorp added: "I think that London has probably

peaked and we may well look back at this as the highest ranking it has achieved."

The survey, which is based on the views of expatriates

weeks of the year, detailing the cost of goods such as alcohol, tobacco, household items, clothing and books. Transport, recreation and "personal care costs" are also compared.

The Japanese cities of Tokyo and Osaka are the most expensive places to live in, closely followed by Hong Kong in third place. The Norwegian capital, Oslo, remains the most expensive city in Europe.

Most Western European cities are in the top half of the rankings, making Eastern Europe a better bet for holiday-makers as a cheap destination.

Lisbon is the cheapest city in western Europe and Budapest the least costly in Europe as a whole. The Asian financial crisis has resulted in Jakarta plummeting 60 places to 119th

NATIONAL TEST results for more than a million children have been delayed by weeks because of blunders by a contractor employed by a government quango.

Corrected test papers for all 11-year-olds and 14-year-olds have been returned to schools this week, but pupils may not know their official grades, known as "levels", until the beginning of next term.

Ministers are said to be furious about the delays, which mean that many schools will be unable to include levels in end-of-term reports to parents.

Teachers are being sent mark sheets which enable them to convert the marks into levels - a job that is usually done centrally. But heads and some teachers' union leaders are advising their members not to carry out the conversion at a time in the school year when they are already under pressure. So pupils will be able to see their marks and percentages but will not know how they translate into levels.

The mix-up comes at a bad time for the Government, which has promised to cut down the amount of paper-work in schools.

"If this only involves a little bit of work, why doesn't Dr Tate find someone to do it?" Primary schools are very busy at this time of year with activities such as sports days and outings."

The moderate Association of Teachers and Lecturers said it was dismayed that children would be kept waiting and schools would have great difficulty getting the grades out in time.

The Department for Education said it regretted the delay and was "taking a keen interest" in the matter.

Helpline for schools: 0141-954 7961

Anger at delay to school results

BY JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

has experienced a number of technical problems leading to slippages in the planned schedule. We are naturally very sorry for any inconvenience this causes schools. We are doing all we can to keep the delay to a minimum."

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, which is advising its members not to ask teachers to carry out the conversions, said that the amount of work involved in secondary schools was quite substantial. He added: "It's a dog's dinner. This is the straw that breaks the camel's back over workload and bureaucracy."

Heads had the choice of hoping the results would arrive in time for this term's reports, sending out just teachers' assessments of pupils' levels, or waiting until next term.

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, accused the authority of trying to keep parents in the dark. He said news of the delay had been slipped out late on Tuesday.

The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, which oversees the tests, says the calculation of the levels in papers in English, maths and science, will take only about one minute for each pupil. It is the first time the results have been processed by computer and the authority said yesterday that it could not say whether all schools would have their results by the end of term, the third week in July, in most areas.

Dr Nick Tate, the authority's chief executive, has told schools in a letter: "The contractor appointed to process the results

Life-swap man 'said he was related to footballer'

BY CHRIS COURT

A CANADIAN businessman accused of murdering a Briton and taking his identity claimed that footballer David Platt was his cousin, a court heard yesterday.

Albert Walker, 52, even boasted he was the former England captain's business manager while living under the name of his alleged victim, Ronald Platt, Exeter Crown Court was told.

At the time he made the claim, Mr Walker was living in Woodham Water, Essex, where he ran a therapy business.

The court heard that Mr Walker, who denies murder, claimed he handled investments for the footballer when calls arrived at his office for someone called David.

The body of his alleged victim, Ronald Platt, was hauled up in fishing nets by a Devon trawler on 28 July 1996. It was

identified by his Rolex watch. The prosecution has claimed that Mr Walker fled to Britain in 1990 from financial and marital problems in Canada, and later befriended Ronald Platt, a television repair man, in Harrogate, Yorkshire.

He subsequently paid for Mr Platt and his girlfriend to start a new life in Canada - and assumed Mr Platt's identity in Britain. The prosecution has alleged that Mr Platt was murdered after returning from Canada to Britain in 1995.

Mr Walker, the prosecution alleges, murdered him by throwing Ron Platt's anchor-weighted body from his yacht, the *Lady Jane*, off the South Devon coast on 20 July 1996.

Yesterday, the therapist Isobel Rogers, who worked for the Solutions in Therapy business

run by "Ron Platt" in Essex, told the court how Mr Walker told her of his background.

He told her he had lived in Vermont, in the United States, and in Liverpool, had been a banker in the US and Europe. Mrs Rogers said that Mr Walker told her he had seven children in New York and Canada, and had a brother and a cousin, both called David. "He made out David Platt the footballer was his cousin," Mrs Rogers said.

On 21 July 1996, he telephoned her saying he had had a "bad accident" on his boat, she said. "He said he fell and had hurt his head and chest, and had hurt himself pulling heavy things off the boat."

Audrey Mossman said she lived close to the house in Woodham Walter where in the autumn of 1994 a couple who introduced themselves as Ron

and Noel Platt moved in. The court has been told that "Noel" was the name assumed by Walker's daughter Sheena, who was 15 when she left Canada with him in 1990.

Mr Walker and his daughter were posing as man and wife when they moved to Essex from Tiverton, Devon, the Crown has told the jury.

Frank Johnson, a retired businessman from Woodham Walter, said in a statement that he became friendly with the man he knew as Ron Platt, who said he had been an international banker.

Mr Johnson said he decided to offer "Ron" a proposition, and lent him £200,000 at zero interest in April 1995, to invest for three years. "Platt" later gave him cheques for £25,000 and £5,000, money he said was from the investment.

The trial continues today.

Hospital mergers prescribed as best tonic for ailing NHS

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

DOCTORS' LEADERS called yesterday for a programme of hospital mergers and reorganisation to concentrate expertise and minimise risks to patients.

"Super-hospitals", serving a population of at least 500,000, about twice the present size, should be the target to ensure high-quality specialist care for patients, a report by three medical organisations says.

Some casualty units would have to close and smaller hospitals would be downgraded, providing low-tech care in co-operation with nearby larger ones.

The report, by the British Medical Association, the Royal College of Physicians and the Royal College of Surgeons, adds to the growing consensus among ministers, doctors and

managers, that the NHS must adapt to survive, with specialist services concentrated in fewer hospitals while routine treatments are delivered by GP clinics and health centres.

The growing complexity of medicine means specialist treatments can no longer be safely provided in small local hospitals, where consultants

work alone without the back-up of a full medical team. It will mean more travelling for patients, because there will be fewer, larger units, but better care when they arrive.

The report says there should be no single-handed consultants in any of the main medical or surgical sub-specialities regardless of the size of hospital, and there must be a big increase in the number of consultants to provide services

DEREK PRINGLE

'Cricket may at last face its future rather than live up to its past, something it has been accountable to for far too long'

— THE FRIDAY REVIEW, PAGE 5

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Hyacinthe Reisch (left) and Jean-Paul Lefevre, of the avant-garde French circus company Que-Cir-Que, rehearse for their show at Highbury Fields in north London, which forms part of the 1998 Islington International Festival. The performances continue until 5 July. Laurie Lewis

Sex assaults by policemen on increase

By JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

INCREASING NUMBERS of police officers are being reported for sexually harassing and assaulting female colleagues and members of the public, a complaints body disclosed yesterday.

Among the cases highlighted was an officer who was accused of indecently assaulting several women while they were held in cells and a police man who offered to help a woman special constable join the force in return for sex.

The Police Complaints Authority's annual report, published yesterday, also expresses concerns about the record number of deaths in custody and issues warnings about the excessive use of CS spray and batons.

On the issue of sexual harassment, the PCA noted: "Allegations of sexual harassment by police officers have been the subject of a growing number of cases dealt with by the PCA over recent years."

It went on: "... the most disturbing came from women whose vulnerability had been

exploited by police officers to whom they had turned for help.

"In some cases ... women complaining of harassment had sought police protection only to suffer the same treatment from the officer supposed to be assisting them."

It added that allegations by women officers had been made against colleagues for harassment at "police stations; in police vehicles; during training courses; or while carrying out surveillance operations".

In the year up to March the PCA dealt with 73 complaints of sexual assault, of which only nine resulted in a punishment. The number of incidents of sexual harassment are not collated separately but are part of the 1,455 cases of general harassment.

The report concluded that while these type of complaints make up only a tiny proportion of their workload, "they do suggest that some police officers still display an outdated and

unacceptable attitude towards women and that a few are prepared to betray their position of trust for personal sexual gratification".

PCA deputy chairman John Cartwright said that much of the sexual harassment was by officers in specialist squads.

The report also noted that it had to deal with a record number of deaths in custody - there were 56 in the past year; six of whom were black.

Better training for police custody officers and sergeants should have saved some of the lives, the PCA believed.

The PCA also highlighted the 254 complaints received about the use of CS spray, saying in some cases its use was "neither justified nor appropriate".

Last year the PCA considered 4,390 fully-investigated cases of complaints against police. These led to police officers being charged with 257 disciplinary offences and 882 cases of warnings or admonishments being issued. Eighteen officers were charged with criminal offences.

Litany of harassment

By JASON BENNETTO

isitors had made improper advances and suggestive remarks.

One officer gave her a note asking her to come to his bedroom and suggested that he would support her application for a full-time police post in return for sex. He was charged with discreditable conduct.

A policeman who picked up a woman while on the beat was jailed for 10 years in May for raping two teenagers and indecently assaulting a woman.

Among the victims of PC John Blott, 33, was a 16-year-old who was raped at the officer's home in New Marske, Cleveland. He had got to know her after questioning her while on duty.

A 14-year-old complained that she had been improperly searched by an officer.

This lead to a number of female officers reporting they had suffered inappropriate behaviour at the hands of the same officer. He was charged with 10 disciplinary offences of abuse of authority and discreditable conduct.

An investigation led to similar complaints from seven other women, including a police clerical worker. The officer was charged with six counts of indecent assault, placed on probation for two years and dismissed from the force.

A woman special constable attending a weekend course at a police headquarters complained that two of the organ-

isers had made improper advances and suggestive remarks.

Several women accused an officer of sexually assaulting them while they were detained in police cells. Similar accusations had been made against the officer in the past. He was fined £225 and dismissed from the service after being charged with discreditable conduct.

Sixteen other officers were warned about their failure to supervise the cells.

The female victim of unwanted telephone calls complained that the officer dealing with the case had made offensive remarks and had indecently assaulted her.

A 14-year-old complained that she had been improperly searched by an officer.

This lead to a number of female officers reporting they had suffered inappropriate behaviour at the hands of the same officer. He was charged with 10 disciplinary offences of abuse of authority and discreditable conduct.

DRUG USERS who have noticed that cocaine dulls the appetite have led scientists to the discovery of a brain chemical that may be responsible for controlling hunger.

Researchers who injected the chemical called Cart - cocaine and amphetamine regulated transcript - into rats found the amount they ate was cut by almost a third. When they injected antibodies to block the effect of the Cart they ate more.

They believe that Cart may be partly responsible for producing a feeling of fullness after eating. The discovery of a neu-

rotransmitter responsible for controlling appetite would mark a leap forward in the search for treatments for obesity, because neurotransmitters are by definition related to the control of normal physiological processes and should be easy to modify with drugs.

However, the researchers warn there are many chemicals regulating appetite and eating and if one is knocked out the brain will eventually learn to compensate.

WIN DAY TIME FOR QU FIN

Clinton comes to China in imperial style

IT WAS A welcome that only China could have offered a visiting American President. In the former imperial capital of Xian, 800 costumed Chinese actors last night danced to the beat of giant red drums under the brightly illuminated ancient city wall as they feted this son of Arkansas in the style of a Tang Dynasty emperor.

Just hours earlier, in a macabre piece of timing, officials several hundred miles to the south announced the execution of three Chinese men for the murder of an American engineer in March. Such is the diplomatic minefield into which President Clinton has stepped.

Mr Clinton flew into the western Chinese city of Xian already braced by the controversy which has dogged the run-up to his nine-day state visit. After being presented with the key to the city, the President took his first cautious steps into that field with a speech that sought to both please his hosts as well as the critics back home. But for the Chinese, last night was more about pageantry than politics.

The scale of that pageant

A huge entourage accompanies the President as he picks his way through a diplomatic minefield.

By Teresa Poole in Peking

gave measure to the importance attached to this visit: the first by a US leader since the shooting of pro-democracy demonstrators in Tiananmen Square in June 1989.

Women in diaphanous gowns and improbable head-dresses led the way as Mr Clinton and his wife made their long march down yards of welcoming red carpet.

By the South Gate of the old city wall, dancers and musicians put on an extravaganza, with copious amounts of dry ice providing a modern touch to an ancient ceremony.

The choice of Xian as Mr Clinton's first stop represented a careful logistical calculation, given that ancient history offers rather safer territory than the diplomatically treacherous present. With the initial speeches out of the way, the first 24 hours of Mr Clinton's induction to

China have been designed as a virtually politics-free zone. This morning's visit to the nearby "model" village of Xiahe followed by a tour of the world-renowned 2,000-year-old life-sized Terracotta Warriors, will provide just the sort of live television pictures which both Mr Clinton and his Chinese hosts want to see beamed back to the US.

It will not be until tomorrow morning that Mr Clinton attends the most provocative event on his itinerary, the formal political welcome by President Jiang Zemin on the edge of Tiananmen Square (carefully timed to miss the main US network news shows).

It is Mr Clinton's handling of China's dismal human rights record which will determine the success or failure of the trip for his audience back home. So far, no meeting with dissidents is on

the agenda, but the President has promised to speak forthrightly about repression. The Chinese authorities are not making his job any easier. By the time of his arrival, at least three dissidents in Xian had been detained with other activists around the country under virtual house arrest. Yes-

terday, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said Western notions of a dissident were "vague" and that China "had no dissidents".

Mr Clinton does not, however, want China's human rights shortcomings to be the only perception Americans have of the world's last major

Communist state. His aides have repeatedly stated that Mr Clinton means to broaden the image of China in the US, with a view to winning support for his policy of "constructive engagement".

Last night he said: "The China that gave us printing, now boasts fax machines, computers and cell-phones. Xian is home to film makers, Internet explorers, business people of every description. Here in this city famous for calligraphy, a new chapter in China's story is being written."

In the first instance, the cultural introduction is more likely to be a learning experience for the Chinese about the modern-day American Imperial style. Emperor Qinshihuang demonstrated his importance in death by being buried in Xian with hundreds of life-sized terracotta warriors. In life, President Clinton has staged a civil invasion of China in order to educate himself about the present.

The vast presidential entourage which arrived yesterday looked designed to match the warriors one-for-one.

As well as his wife and daughter, Mr Clinton has brought five top level administration officials, including the Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, and the Treasury Secretary, Robert Rubin. Add to that hundreds of support staff and military personnel, 10 ar-

moured limousines and highly sophisticated secure communications equipment (which the Chinese would dearly love to inspect).

China is not used to this level of imported political pomp and circumstance, but has apparently acceded to Washington's insistence that this is the American way. In the village of Xiahe yesterday, where some homes still lack running water, the US advance team was busy installing modern portable toilets and a bank of telephones.

And then there are the journalists, not usually China's favourite guests. The Chinese Foreign Ministry said yesterday that 1,020 reporters were registered to cover the Clinton visit, including 268 from the travelling corps, 281 from the Chinese media and 78 Peking-based foreign correspondents.

China's revenge so far has been to charge foreign television reporters up to \$1,000 per minute for reports next to the Terracotta Warriors. But even at these prices not everyone is welcome: three journalists from Radio Free Asia, the US propaganda station, had their visas withdrawn at the last minute.

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The coverage of the state visit by China's own state-controlled media will provide a litmus test of the tentative relaxation of censorship which some observers have discerned in recent months. The first



Bill Clinton is greeted by a group of schoolchildren with Shaanxi provincial governor Cheng Andong in Xian

Reuters

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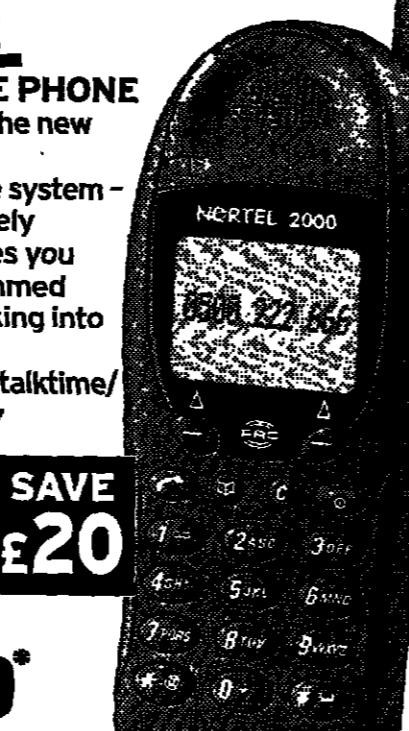
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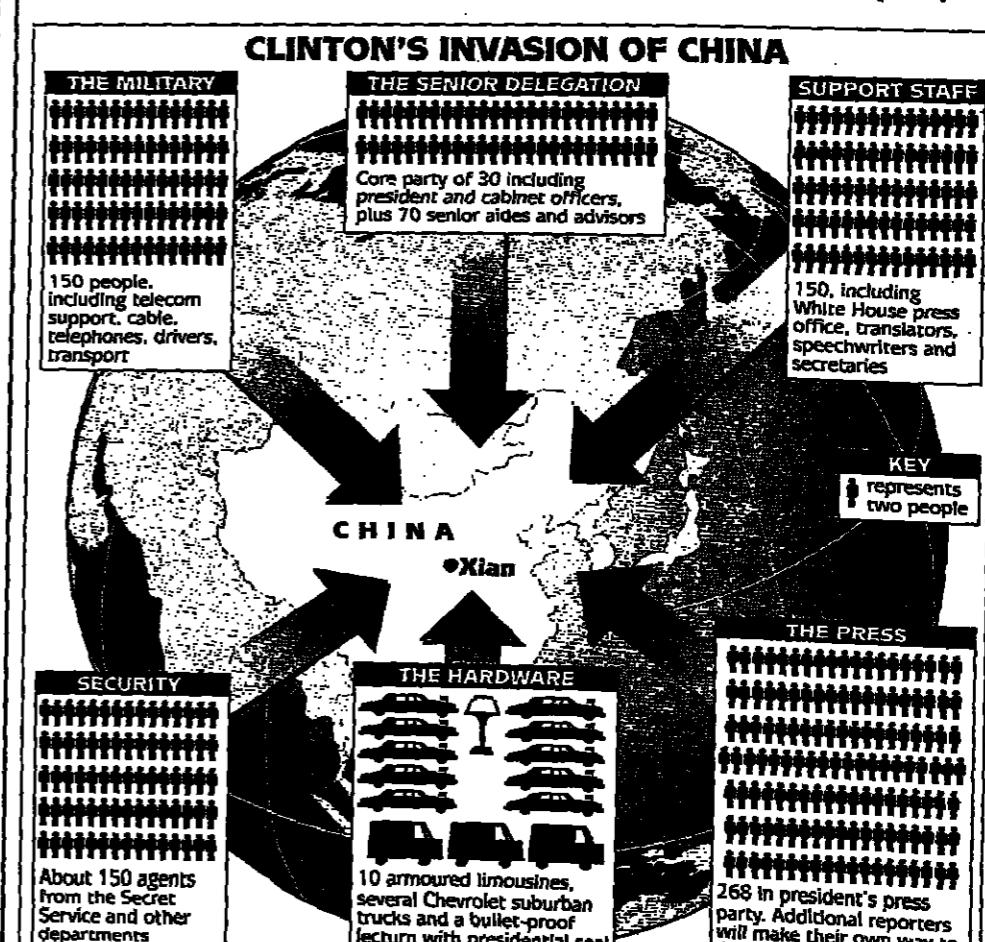
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Tibet 'lied over prisoners'

BY CLAIRE SCOBIE

A EUROPEAN Union fact-finding mission to Tibet to investigate the plight of political prisoners had the wool pulled over its eyes when it visited Tibet's largest prison, Drapchi in Lhasa, last month. The 10-day tour was part of the EU "human rights dialogue" with China.

Three days before it arrived, during a Chinese flag raising ceremony, several inmates began shouting anti-Chinese slogans. A number of demonstrators were beaten so violently that one subsequently died. However, the three Beijing-based ambassadors were "not aware" of any disturbance,

There is concern that human rights delegations which visit Tibetan prisons can put the prisoners' lives at risk. "We have seen over the years a pattern whereby delegations create problems for the inmates and don't get to see beyond what has been cleaned up by the prison authorities," said a spokesperson for New York-based Human Rights Watch.

The Chinese authorities issue written guidelines on how to manage official visits to prisons. Gerd Poppe, one of a group of German parliamentarians who went to Drapchi last year, described their visit as "totally set up".

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South Korean Navy personnel inspect the North Korean submarine which sank as it was being towed at the eastern port city of Donghae. The bodies of eight North Korean soldiers were found on board

Reuters

'Suicide' crew found in North Korean sub

AFTER THREE days of suspense, the latest tense episode on the Korean peninsula came to a grisly end yesterday when the bodies of dead sailors were removed from a stricken North Korean submarine.

The Yugo-class midget sub had been towed to the South Korean part of Tonghae after it became tangled in fishing nets on Monday while apparently engaged in an espionage mission. On Wednesday it sank as South Korean naval ships tried to haul it alongside the dock for inspection. After being floated yesterday, television news in the South reported that an unspecified number of bodies had been found in the hull.

They were found lying in just 30 inches of water, according to Korea Broadcasting System, suggesting that they may have asphyxiated or committed suicide rather than drowned. North Korean troops are trained to commit suicide

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY
in Tokyo

rather than allow themselves to be captured. When 26 sailors and commandos were stranded in a similar incident in 1996, most of them were shot by one of their own officers. The KBS report was not immediately confirmed by the South Korean defence ministry.

The submarine's entanglement in mackerel nets in South Korean waters 11 miles off the east coast was only the beginning of a series of misadventures. After sinking in 100 feet of water at the mouth of the dockyard, the sub was refloated yesterday using four huge balloons.

The job of raising it open was complicated by the fear of booby traps. Inside, plastic containers for soft drinks made in South Korea were discovered, suggesting that members of the crew had recently spent

time as infiltrators in the South. "What was found in the sub was contrary to a North Korean claim that the sub was missing while on a routine training mission after experiencing mechanical problems," KBS said.

But the South Korean president, Kim Dae Jung, continued to play down the incident and to emphasise the importance of co-operation with the communist North. "As the intrusion into our territorial waters by a North Korean submarine shows, military tensions are continuing," President Kim said in a speech marking the 40th anniversary yesterday of the alleged North Korean attack which provoked the three year-long Korean War.

"However, while maintaining a firm posture, the newly established government of the people will protect peace and co-operation with the North according to a flexible North Korea policy."

Israeli hero's body returns in gory exchange

IN A gory exchange Israel was expecting last night to receive the body of Sergeant Itamar Ilya, a naval commando killed in an ambush in Lebanon last year in return for 60 Lebanese prisoners and the bodies of 40 guerrillas killed by Israel in fighting in southern Lebanon.

Hizbullah and Amal, the two Lebanese guerrilla groups fighting Israel's occupation of south Lebanon, each held part of the body of Sgt Ilya, one of 12 Israelis killed in a disastrous raid last September. His remains were then to be flown on a French plane to Tel Aviv, where they will be identified by the army chief rabbi.

Once Israel is assured that it has received the right body, the remains of 40 guerrillas, 28 from Hizbullah, nine from Amal and three Communists will be flown to Beirut. They will include the body of Hadi Nasrallah, the son of the leader of Hizbullah, Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, who was killed in action in southern Lebanon last year.

Israel will also release 50 Lebanese prisoners from al-Khiam, a prison maintained by the South Lebanon Army, a militia group in south Lebanon paid for and armed by Israel. A further 10 prisoners held in Israel will be released. Most prisoners are associated with Hizbullah and Amal, but Israel has admitted holding some Lebanese purely for the purposes of exchange.

The bodies of the Lebanese guerrillas were dug up overnight and put in makeshift coffins. Amal said of the remains of Sgt Ilya: "The skin was handed over this afternoon to the leadership of the Lebanese army." The rest of his body, blown apart by explosives he was carrying, was held by Hizbullah. The remains of the other 11 Israelis killed last year were recovered at the time.

Underlining that the war in south Lebanon is continuing, two Israelis were killed and three seriously wounded yesterday when they were caught by two Hizbullah bombs during a night-time patrol.

Lieutenant Amit Asulin, 21, and Sgt Oren Cohen, 19, were killed by the explosions near the village of Tallouse, in the central section of the Israeli occupation zone.

The deaths yesterday bring to eight the numbers of Israelis killed this year, compared to 39 who died last year. The fall in the number of casualties has led to some diminution in pressure on the Israeli government to pull out, which developed last year.

Meanwhile in Gaza, Sheikh Yassin, the leader of the militant organisation Hamas, told a news conference that Hamas would join the cabinet of the Palestinian Authority if Yasser Arafat, its leader, renounced the Oslo agreement with Israel. Sheikh Yassin also offered Israel a ceasefire if it would return to its borders before it captured the West Bank in 1967.

FRANCIS MAUDE

'It is dogmatic to decide today that the Euro must be a good thing, and that we will join at the earliest opportunity. The pragmatic course is to see if it works'

THE FRIDAY REVIEW, PAGE 4

Vast nuclear dump puts Russia in dock

AN UNPARALLELED legal battle has begun in Russia to stop an ex-Soviet nuclear weapons plant from injecting highly radioactive liquid waste underground - a practice which environmentalists say threatens not only the drinking supply of hundreds of thousands of people but, ultimately, Europe's Arctic fishing grounds.

Local environmentalists in western Siberia have filed a lawsuit against the authorities in an attempt to revoke a dumping permit at Tomsk-7, which produced plutonium and uranium for the Kremlin's nuclear weapons during the Cold War.

The radioactivity of the waste dumped there over the last 35 years is about 1,200 curies - utterly dwarfing the 50 curies released when the 1986 Chernobyl disaster sent a cloud of radioactivity across the northern hemisphere.

"It is a unique case," said Thomas Nielsen, of the Bellona Foundation, an Oslo-based environmental research organi-

sation which monitors the Russian nuclear industry. "This is the first time that an independent local group has tried to take on the authorities in the Russian courts in this way."

Government officials admit that the Siberian Chemical Combine at Tomsk-7 - for years a closed city known only by its postcode and ringed by miles of barbed wire - injects highly radioactive liquid waste underground.

This is held in what they call "deep wells", 300m to 400m-deep water-carrying layers sealed by deposits of clay. But they say the waste is safe.

"It is absolutely meaningless to compare this with Chernobyl, as it makes no impact whatever on the environment," Yevgeny Kudryavtsev, head of the nuclear chemical division of Russia's Ministry of Atomic Energy, told *The Independent* yesterday. But the ministry's

opponents, including Bellona, point to the fact that the underground dumps are only a few miles from wells that supply drinking water to the 500,000 residents of the city of Tomsk. They fear a leak, warning that it could one day cause a catastrophe by flooding the food chain with radioactivity.

"This is the biggest dumping ground for such waste in the entire world," said Mr Nielsen. "This also happens to be a few miles from the Tom River, a tributary of the Ob River which flows into the Arctic and the Barents Sea, the fishing ground for the whole of Europe."

Over the years, he said, at least 10kg of plutonium - which will threaten the environment for centuries - has been dumped underground at Tomsk-7, mixed with other liquid waste. There is no known way of extracting and disposing of it.

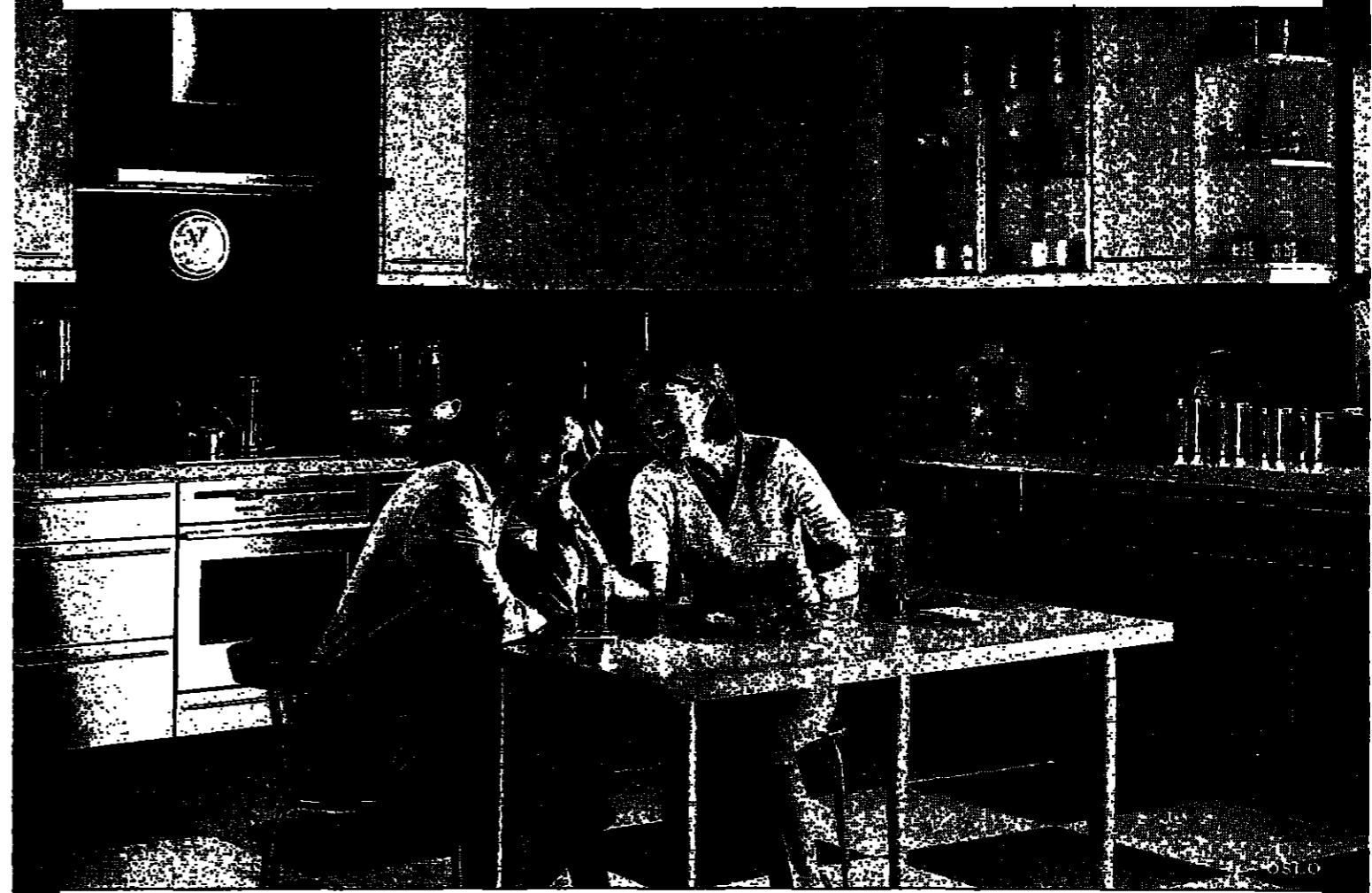
Bellona believes the law suit, bought by local groups - including a regional organisa-

tion called Green World - will be a critical test of the 1993 Russian constitution. This grants the "right to a favourable environment, reliable information on the state of the environment and compensation for damage caused to health and property by violations of environmental laws".

However, the ministry's Mr Kudryavtsev was yesterday bullish confident about the plant - scene of a serious nuclear accident in 1983, in which a 45-mile surrounding zone was contaminated.

He says the underground dumps are sealed by deposits of clay the "width of a 10-storey building" providing a barrier which would last "thousands and thousands" of years. Asked if he could be certain that the waste would not one day escape, he replied: "Are you sure that there won't be a nuclear accident in Britain in the next few days? Can you ever be absolutely sure? It is a meaningful question."

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مکان از اندیش



Kosovo Liberation Army take cover in Grabovac, near Pristina, yesterday, but Pristina-based paper Koha Ditor (below) is cautious in its reporting of the battles for independence in Kosovo

Wayne Lovell/Reuters

Pristina's reporters in a no-chance saloon

ROBERT FISK, who last night was named as Britain's top journalist at the Amnesty International press awards, concludes his series on

Kosovo at the offices of the 'Koha Ditor' newspaper

but still sells abroad; in Germany, Switzerland, Britain, the Netherlands and, of course, Macedonia. No copies reach Albania itself.

And it takes itself seriously. On an average day, the 15-page tabloid crams seven stories and at least one photograph on to its front page but packs its inside pages with reports from its 13 young journalists (the oldest is 27 and up to 50 stringers).

Thirty youngsters work on the news desks with five editors, many of them sucking news off the Internet or the local Albanian news agency.

The Serb army and police, needless to say, don't co-operate. "They always say that only the commander can speak to us - and he's never available," Neli Qena says. Clearly, he hasn't worked on a British paper.

But there are other reasons for tension in the newsroom. It's only a few months since the police beat up Veton Surra, Koha's editor-in-chief, in the streets,

says. "We put them on a page headed 'English Culture'." He is still not smiling.

The Serb press, like the state television service, is derisive about Koha. Its reporters ignore the presence of Koha's journalists at press conferences although Belgrade's opposition media - Bora and B-92 radio - report on the Albanian paper's activities.

Each morning Koha sends a reporter to the Grand Hotel, a Serb bastion of unwashed carpets and broken elevators in the heart of Pristina, for the Serb media centre's daily bulletin which includes British newspaper reports from Kosovo (which is how The Independent's dispatches sometimes turn up in Koha).

So I ask an obvious question. Are there no relations between the journalists? Are there no mixed marriages?

I have heard of an Albanian editor married to a Serb television newscaster. "Most of

them are from the same town."

True to form, however, Koha carries no film reviews.

Albanian leader is left isolated

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

AS ETHNIC Albanian insurgents made more incursions on the ground, the major powers still insisted there could be no independence for Kosovo, and urged the Albanians' moderate political leadership to enter talks with Yugoslavia for greater autonomy for the province back in 1989.

The exchanges leave Mr Rugova, who advocates a non-violent solution of the crisis, in an almost impossible position. Among his compatriots, his credibility decreases by the week, as support for the guerrillas of the Kosovo Liberation Army grows along with their gains against Serb security forces and an ever more beleaguered Serb civilian population.

Almost simultaneously in

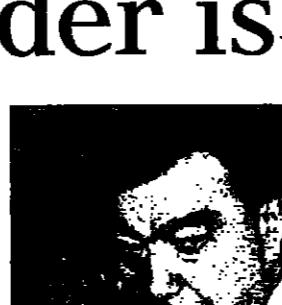
Belacevac, west of the capital, Pristina, and according to eyewitnesses are carrying out daylight armed patrols less than 10 miles from the city. Serb morale, KLA fighters claim, is crumbling.

Yet Russia and the Western powers grouped in the six-nation Contact Group, while dealing with Mr Rugova, deprive him of his strongest remaining card with his countrymen, by ruling out the outright independence they and he seek.

Speaking after talks with the German Foreign Minister, Klaus Kinkel, Mr Rugova accused the Serbs of ethnic cleansing in Kosovo.

He said the "climate was not right" for talks and reiterated his call for independence. He appealed too for NATO intervention to stop Mr Milosevic's "best shot".

"Don't expect this thing [Kosovo] to be settled in a week," he told reporters. "This isn't the last chance for peace, as some of you are writing." A diplomatic process was under way, and the US would give it its "best shot".



Rugova: 'Mr Rugova is not as powerful as he was'

admitted the dilemma: Mr Rugova was "not as powerful as he used to be... the [KLA] extremists are getting the upper hand over him."

Already in control of 80 per cent of Kosovo, the KLA has captured an important coalmine

troops and security forces from driving out any more ethnic Albanians on top of the 65,000 to 80,000 already estimated to have fled to Albania proper or the neighbouring republic of Montenegro.

But direct military action by the Alliance now looks much less likely. In Belgrade, as he prepared for a second meeting with President Milosevic inside 48 hours, Richard Holbrooke, Washington's Balkan troubleshooter and the UN ambassador-designate, warned against hopes of a quick fix.

"Don't expect this thing [Kosovo] to be settled in a week," he told reporters. "This isn't the last chance for peace, as some of you are writing." A diplomatic process was under way, and the US would give it its "best shot".

A city that proves power is the ultimate aphrodisiac

AMERICAN TIMES
CONNECTICUT AVENUE, WASHINGTON

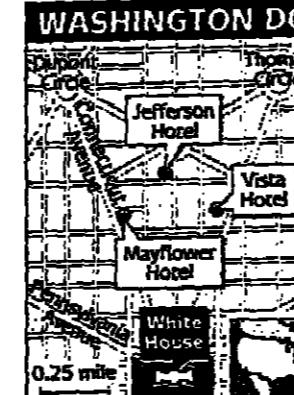
THEY HAVE been there for weeks, this group of sad, distracted looking young men and women who sit on the pavement, just staring into the middle distance. They wait for people to come out of the smart office blocks, hoping that they will get just a little something to keep them going for another day.

They are not down and out, though, unless you define the upstanding members of the Washington press corps as mendicants (and many would). We are talking about street people Washington style: the camera crews and reporters who wait outside the offices of Monica Lewinsky's lawyers, staking out the main entrance and car park around the corner. This is only one of several encampments dotted

around the city: there is another one at the federal court where the Lewinsky grand jury sits that forms an impressive tangle of cables and camera positions.

These odd locations become fixed in the memory of Washington residents, informally recognised landmarks. The camera crews seem unaware, but just across the street from them is a reminder of older adulteries. The Mayflower hotel is one of Washington's most comfortable and discreet,

which is perhaps why Lyndon B Johnson and John F Kennedy both chose it for liaisons with their mistresses.



visitors around the steamer landmarks of Washington, though she prefers the older scandals because the participants can't answer back, she says. She shows people the Tidal Basin where Wilbur Mills, then the august chairman of the House Ways and

Means Committee, frolicked with a stripper called Fanne Foxe on the steps of the Capitol, where former Congressman John Jenrette had what she politely calls "a romantic interlude" with his wife. At least it was his wife. But they are of even greater interest to

The Kennedy's brought a whiff of sex to Washington,

but most of the White House incumbents have been less than erotically charged.

Jimmy Carter did once confess to "adultery in my heart", but apparently, that is where he kept it. Ronald Reagan and his wife were inseparable. And when Bill goes, the most likely incumbent in the White

House is Vice-President Al Gore, a man who looks as if he is more likely to spontaneously combust than to have an extra-marital affair.

Monica Lewinsky has al-

ready generated a number of significant locations, shrines to the intersection of sex and power. Continue up Connecticut Avenue, cross over Dupont Circle and you will find Kramer Books, a funky little bookshop with a bar and restaurant attached. It was briefly dragged into the Monica maelstrom, when it emerged that she had bought some presents there for the President.

The authorities went to the absurd lengths of trying to subpoena the sales records for these purchases. One of the books is thought to have been Nicholson Baker's phone sex

There is no accounting for taste, especially in Washington.

ANDREW MARSHALL

Zero tolerance comes to Philadelphia's wild north where drugs fuel highest gun murder rate in US

Police reclaim mean streets

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Philadelphia

IT IS dusk in Kensington in North Philadelphia, an area that shares only a name with London WB. The tenth day of Operation Sunrise is drawing to a close.

A few desultory prostitutes tout their wares in the darkening corridor of Kensington Avenue that runs beneath the raised suburban railway known as the "El". The scruffy shops and takeaways that were trading an hour ago are now soundly shuttered. There is little indication of life from the two radios and the computer inside Sergeant Joe Sparks' police car; someone with a half-concealed gun is sighted here, there is word of a robbery there and a suspected drug dealer is seen hovering on a corner somewhere else. Police cars - many with the N-number that signals the narcotic division - circle slowly, like sharks in the gloom. In the office of the 24th police district, the only noise is the clatter of typewriter keys.

Down the side streets, an elderly woman is sweeping the pavement in front of her terraced house. Another is hosing down her steps. Some people have brought out their deckchairs to sit on their verandas in the cool of the evening, and a few children have opened the fire hydrants to cavort in the jets of water.

To Sgt Sparks, this picture of small-scale normality is little short of miraculous. Until 10 days ago, drugs were traded here in broad daylight. "The customers stand in queues, as

though they were in a supermarket," says Sgt Sparks. Then the very idea that people could sweep or hose their steps, let alone let children play in the hydrants was unthinkable. They might get caught in the crossfire. The only children on the street then were the smart kids on BMXs wearing \$100 (£60) trainers who "work" as look-outs for the dealers.

Then, a patrol could notch up a dozen or more arrests a shift.

Tonight, it is possible that Sgt Sparks and his team of 22 officers could end their shift without even one. For the first time in almost two decades, this would count as a success and not a failure.

Just two hours before, the new commissioner of the Philadelphia police, Commander John Timoney, had been addressing Sgt Sparks and other members of the East District special operations division in his first roll-call. Until March, Cdr Timoney - a graduate of the old, tough school of policing - had been deputy head of the New York Police Department and one of the leading lights of the celebrated Zero Tolerance campaign there.

Now, he was telling the policemen setting off for night patrol that he wanted "good, honest, aggressive police work" but nothing "overly aggressive, brutal or corrupt". "There's a line in the sand you must not cross." He warned: "If you go

in like Attila the Hun, kicking ass all over the place, it won't pay off."

Cdr Timoney has inherited a catalogue of failure. Philadelphia, the fifth largest city in America, is one of the few that has not seen a sharp fall in violent crime in the past five years. It has the highest rate of shooting murders in the United States (22 per cent of 409 last year), one of the highest rates of legal gun ownership, and its drug market boasts the purest heroin (75.5 per cent).

Crime maps compiled in Mr Timoney's first month showed East District to have the highest concentration of murder, drug dealing and shooting crime in the city. Operation

Sunrise is said to be the most sweeping police operation here in the past 20 years and is based on the idea that "drugs are the engine that drives all other crime". Sunrise brings together more than a dozen agencies, local, state and federal, from top-level law enforcement to rubbish collection.

The clean-up began with a bang at 8.30am on Monday morning in the heart of East District with a procession of cars, engines and trucks, lights flashing, to advertise their intentions. It was, says Cdr Timoney, designed partly to protect the police and partly to convey the message to the "95 per cent law abiding members of the community", which is more

than half Hispanic, that they had not been abandoned.

The new toughness from the city authorities and police has spawned some strange alliances. Last week, the mayor, Ed Rendell, said he would consider a proposal from the National Rifle Association (NRA) to make Philadelphia the test

bed for their theory that no tougher gun control laws were required, just enforcement of existing laws. Cdr Timoney thinks the NRA as an organisation is "completely nuts", but is all in favour of the mayor's "can-do" interest in enforcement, starting not with the easiest areas, but the toughest in a tough city.

Kensington is typical of a

once respectable blue-collar district gone bad, through a succession of factory closures, depopulation, poverty and drugs. Everyone involved in the clean-up say they are in for "the long haul" - 18 months, two years, as long as it takes - and they are going to need that resolve.

"In four to six weeks, perhaps, the dealers and the addicts will get frustrated because we haven't gone away. They'll attack the barricades, assault police cars, target the police. It's going to get messy, but no one's going to back away," says Larry McElroy, in charge of the Philadelphia division of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

The police have a lot at stake in Kensington, not least be-

cause they have a lot to live down. It was they who, in 1985, were responsible for one of the most spectacularly bungled operations anywhere in the US, when they laid siege to two blocks of West Philadelphia occupied by the anarchist MOVE group, and ended by dropping bombs.

"I tell everyone who brings up the MOVE operation, please stop making that analogy," says Inspector Jerry Daley of Special Operations. "It was a low point for our organisation. Such a huge black eye." But he acknowledges: "It's critically important to ensure that a professional job is done here."

Next month, when the temperature rises in every sense, will be the test.

Bernard Clair, Ms Wildenstein's lawyer, said his client was "purring" about the court's ruling. "What this decision does is confirm that he should support his wife of 20 years according to his means. Justice had been served," he said.

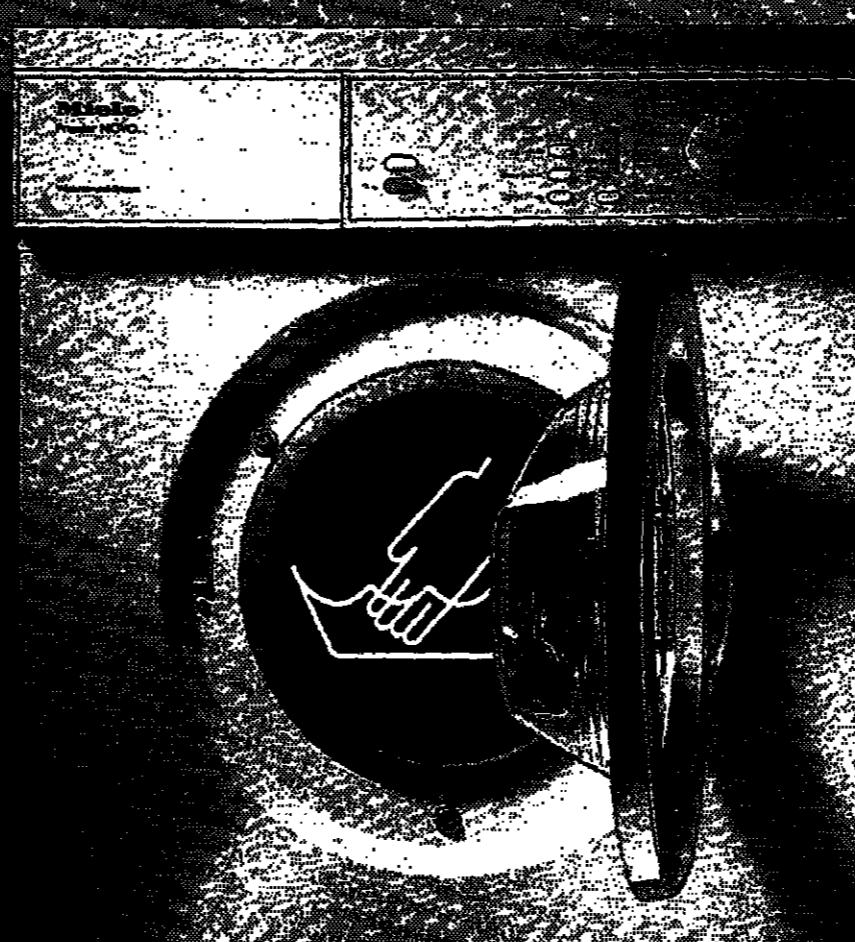
He added: "On a practical level, this sum of money does approximate the lifestyle enjoyed by my client". In his argument, Mr Clair had pointed out that the couple typically spent more than \$10m a year together until they split in 1996.

Dubbed the "Bride of Wildenstein" by New York tabloid headline writers because of her weirdly stretched visage, Jocelyne will take heart from the court's ruling as the full divorce trial looms.



Christopher Pillitz/Network

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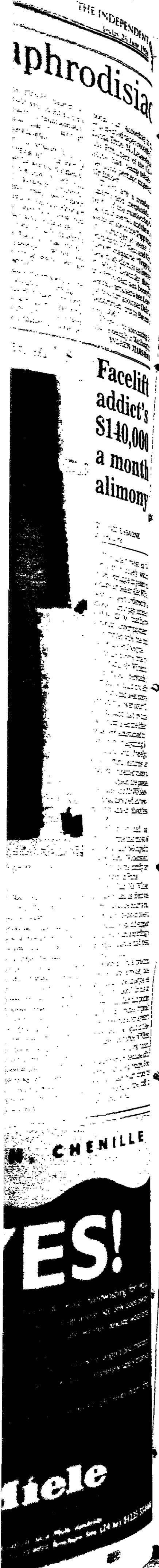
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Turkey briefing: Despite its failed bid for full EU membership, the nation hopes to continue its economic growth

Problems lurking beneath surface

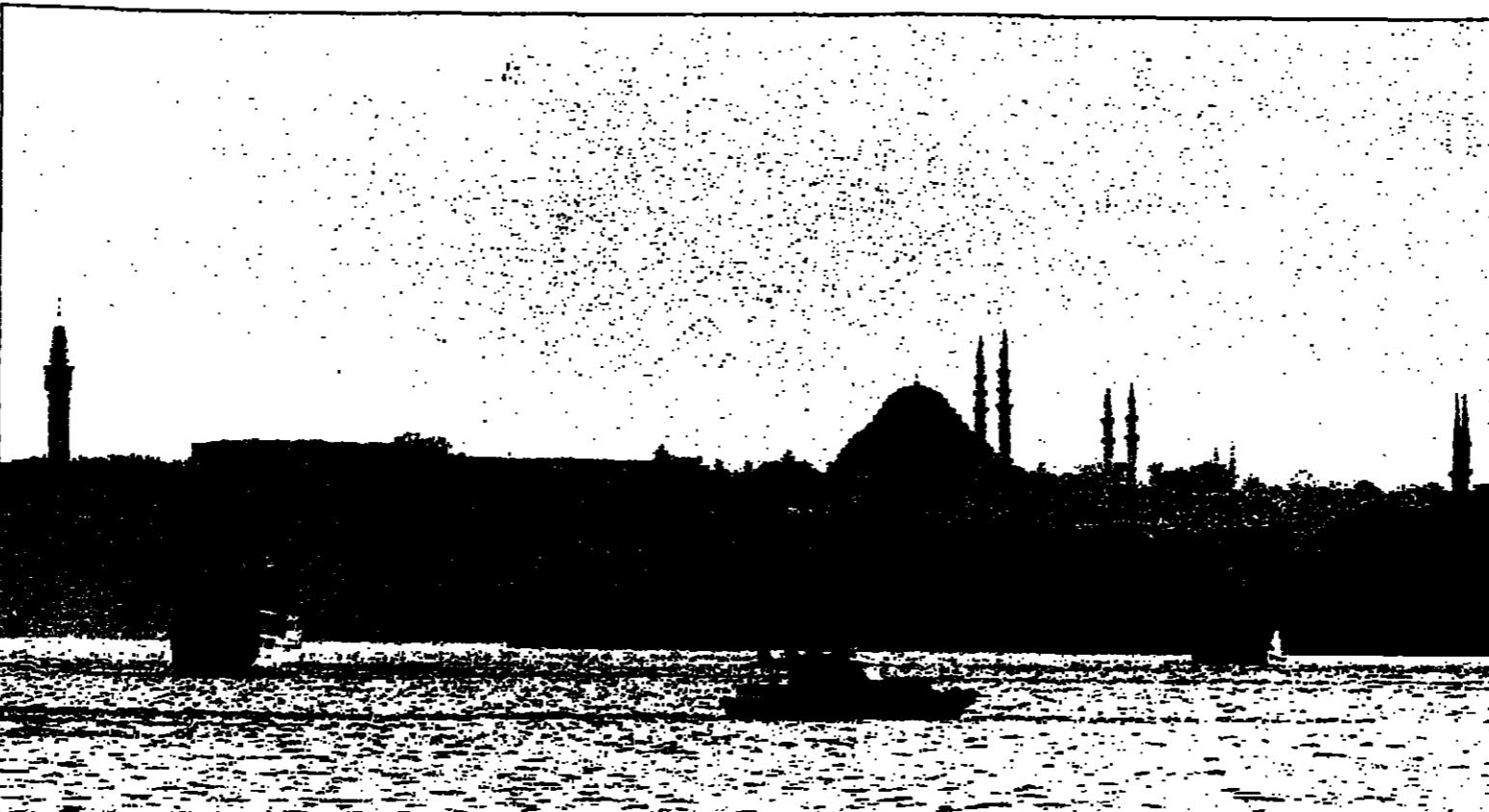
BY JUSTIN HUGGLES
in Istanbul

AT FIRST sight, Turkey is a great success story. Until the 1980s, its economy was cut off from the outside world by protectionism. For the last three years, foreign investment receipts have averaged around \$300m, and the GDP has grown by 7 per cent, according to government statistics. Turkey has entered a customs union with the EU. The state sector's share of the economy has diminished. The country is a multi-party democracy in a region where they are few and far between.

There are still plenty of problems, however. Behind the impressive growth rate lies chronic high inflation. Turkey is bitterly disappointed not to be a candidate for full membership of the EU. But it has done little to improve its poor human rights record, named by the EU as a key factor against the country. A Kurdish insurgency continues in the South-East. Islamism has begun to feature heavily in the country's politics. There have been three military coups since the foundation of modern Turkey and recent events have shown that real power still rests with the generals.

In June 1996, Necmettin Erbakan became Turkey's first Islamist prime minister. A year later he resigned under intense pressure from the military. Mr Erbakan has since been banned from politics and his Welfare Party has been closed.

The principle of secularism is enshrined in Turkey's constitution, and rigidly defended by the military, which has pushed the government and courts towards increasingly draconian methods. Islamist mayors have been sentenced to imprisonment for speeches held to be anti-secular. The current government has been forced to implement a package of anti-Islamist laws which includes a ban on beards



Istanbul, where Europe meets Asia and Islamist politics mix with new alliances with the West

John Voss

and women's headscarves – both traditional symbols of Islam – in universities.

Islamist MPs, in their new Virtue Party, still form the largest group in parliament but their rhetoric has moderated. Spokesmen now talk of Turkey's place as within the Western alliance, not among Islamic countries. The idea of pan-Islamic currency, suggested during Mr Erbakan's government, has been shelved. Introducing an Islamic legal system "would be crazy," says a senior adviser. The party says it wants to defend freedom of belief in Turkey. There is speculation that it may split into two factions because of internal differences.

A minority coalition govern-

ment of three parties took power after Mr Erbakan's resignation. It was expected to be a caretaker government but committed itself to tackling serious areas of policy, although it has had trouble getting legislation through parliament without a majority. Earlier this month Mr Yilmaz made an election pact with an opposition party, promising elections next April in return for support in key areas of legislation. But the pact has strained the coalition, with its smallest member threatening to leave in protest.

The government has begun to tackle inflation, aiming to slow growth this year. A six-month price-freeze on state-sector commodities ends this month. Year-on-year consumer inflation came down from 101.6 per cent in January to 91.4 per cent in May, according to government statistics.

Analysts agree that long-term inflation has been caused by chronic budget deficits. A tax-reform bill is in parliament – up to 60 per cent of Turkey's economy is believed to be unregistered for tax and under-declaring is routine practice. The government has also gained revenue from privatisation.

Turkey's economic success began in the 1980s, with the liberalisation programme pioneered by Turgut Ozal, who emerged as prime minister when the country returned to civilian rule in 1983. Ozal began

to put an end to restrictions on foreign investment and protectionist tariffs.

Today the largest sectors

are manufacturing and trade. According to provisional government figures, last year Turkey realised \$26.24bn of exports. Imports were much higher at \$48.58bn. Turkey's foreign trade has been helped by the 1996 customs union with the EU, which abolished trade barriers in most sectors. The economy has proved its resilience by bouncing back from a financial crisis in 1994, which caused GDP to shrink by over 5.5 per cent; in 1995 growth was back to 7.2 per cent. Observers agree that political interference in the economy is still a problem.

Turkey expected the customs union to lead to full membership of the EU. But at last December's Luxembourg summit, the EU effectively rejected Turkey's membership bid for the foreseeable future.

Turkey was offered membership of the European Conference, but declined to attend its meeting in March. Since the Luxembourg summit, Turkey has refused to discuss Cyprus, Aegean disputes with Greece, or human rights with the EU. It rejected an attempt by the British presidency to kick-start relations in May. The Turkish government blames Greece, with which it has a history of acrimony.

One of the reasons the EU gave for rejecting Turkey was its human rights record. Amnesty International says the situation is improving, but that Turkey still has a long way to go. According to Turkey's Human Rights Association (HRA), so far this year there have been 217 allegations of torture, and 44 claims of death through torture or extra-judicial execution.

The PKK says it wants autonomy for the Kurds. A separate Kurdish ethnic identity is not recognised by Turkey, and there are restrictions on use of the Kurdish language. Turkey says its security forces have all but defeated the PKK. But as recently as April a small bomb in Istanbul's tourist district caused foreign visitors minor injuries and raised the spectre of attacks on tourists.

South-East has been ravaged by years of guerrilla warfare between the terrorist Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and the Turkish military. Evacuation forced by the military has sent a wave of refugees to the cities of western Turkey, and another of illegal immigrants to the EU.

The PKK says it wants autonomy for the Kurds. A separate Kurdish ethnic identity is not recognised by Turkey, and there are restrictions on use of the Kurdish language. Turkey says its security forces have all but defeated the PKK. But as recently as April a small bomb in Istanbul's tourist district caused foreign visitors minor injuries and raised the spectre of attacks on tourists.

Markets offer a bumpy but profitable ride

"NOT FOR the faint of heart," is how John T McCarthy, ING Barings' Turkey Country Manager, describes the equity market on the Istanbul Stock Exchange (ISE). Nevertheless, since it opened in 1986, the ISE has grown impressively. It has two main markets: equity and bonds and bills.

There is also a small international stock exchange with duty-free trading in hard currency and there are plans to open a futures and derivatives market soon. There is also a small gold market outside the jurisdiction of the ISE.

In 1986 the average daily trading value on the equity market was \$50,000; in the first five months of 1998 it was \$350m, according to ISE figures. "In the last 12 years we increased the market capital from under \$1bn to \$60bn," says Huseyin Erkan, Executive Vice Chairman of the ISE. "Think how good it could have been with political stability."

Although the general trend is upward, the market is volatile. The ISE says foreign investors hold 53 per cent of the stock, but only account for 10

per cent of daily trade, because they generally make longer-term investments than locals.

The Turkish government's high borrowing requirement crowds out the domestic borrowing market and offers high yield on treasury bills: 15-30 per cent a year in dollar terms. According to the ISE, the average daily trading value on the bonds and bills market up to the end of May was \$1.7bn. Over 75 per cent of daily trade is made up of reverse-purchase agreements by which the buyer agrees to sell back the bond after a set period, usually overnight.

The government wants to lengthen the maturity of its debt, and is trying to shift more of its borrowing onto bonds. Foreign investors are present but are in the minority.

Overall foreign investment in Turkey climbed drastically between 1987 and 1991 as Turkey's market opened up:

annual direct receipts soared from \$71m to \$910m, according to government figures. They fell in 1993 and in 1994's financial crisis but rose again and since 1995 have remained

steady around the \$90m mark. Foreign investment is largest in the car, banking, trade and food sectors.

Turkey's efforts to draw foreign investment into its state enterprises have had a history of frustration. The country tried to attract private capital to its energy and infrastructure projects via the build-operate-transfer model, where an investor builds a facility and operates it for a set period of time to recoup investment and make a profit, before ownership reverts to the state.

This was successful in attracting Turkish private capital, but was severely limited as a lure for foreign investment when the constitutional court ruled that international arbitration over contractual disputes was illegal. The government insists projects still attract some interest.

Turkey's other scheme to attract private investment is to sell off some of its extensive state-owned sector. Privatisation has been on the agenda since Turgut Ozal's reforms in the Eighties, but progress has been very slow in the face of numerous political and legal challenges.

But political opposition seems to have fallen away, and legal difficulties seem to have been overcome for now. So far this year, the government has already broken all records for privatisation revenue.

In April, two licenses to operate mobile phone networks were sold for a total of \$1bn. In May, state-owned shares in Is Bank, the largest private bank, were sold for over \$600m. Next on the agenda are stakes in THY, the national airline; Turk Telekom, the land-line telephone company; and Petrol Ofisi petrol supplier. The Treasury says the petrol sale could be "in the billions".

One problem which remains with privatisation is the government's policy of retaining stakes in some enterprises. This exposes investors to the risk of being involved in an enterprise managed for political rather than economic ends. And Turkish governments don't have a good record. As Mr McCarthy puts it: "You're in for a ride with a driver whose proven to be a drunk driver."

Tourism's faltering success

IT IS surprising that Turkey's tourism industry took so long to develop, considering the resources the country has to offer:

Its chief asset is its long coast line along the Aegean and Mediterranean seas, but Turkey also has a vast wealth and range of cultural monuments, including the mosques and Byzantine churches of Istanbul, and the ruins of ancient Ephesus, and dramatic landscapes like the chimney rock formations of Cappadocia. Mountain terrains are proving ideal for trekking and site visits have been developed.

The country's tourist industry is starting to promote faith tourism to its many Muslim and Christian pilgrimage sites and it has the natural resources to cater for specialist interests like bird-watching and caving.

But Turkish tourism did not seriously develop its potential until the mid-Eighties. The country's relative poverty meant it could offer value for money. The Government offered incentives to investors in

order to develop infrastructure. The industry boomed. Now, says the Ministry of Tourism, it is the fastest growing sector of the economy and the fastest developing source of employment.

In 1980, 1.3 million tourists arrived only \$32m in receipts, according to Tursab, the local association of tour operators. In 1997, there were 9.7 million visitors, and \$7bn of receipts.

Receipts have grown by over 18 per cent for the last two years, but so far this year they are down. Tursab blames declining incomes in EU countries and increased competition from other Mediterranean destinations. Devaluation of the Greek drachma and reduction of VAT in Spain have made holidays in those countries cheaper.

The Ministry agrees with the analysis and blames the football World Cup as well. But Tursab says the government has not done enough to help tourism. "They don't agree that tourism include long-term grants of government-owned

economy," says Erol Karabulut, Research and Development Director at Tursab. "We contribute \$3bn to total exports of \$25bn but the government doesn't give us any special attention. But this year is the breaking point. Now the market's been declining, they want to help."

But Mustafa Syahban, Assistant General Director of the Ministry disagrees. "I would say the government has provided considerable assistance. Most of the bed capacity was created with assistance from the government. But I would agree we need to help more with marketing."

The Ministry says this year it will have run advertising campaigns through the media of 48 countries by the end of June. The government is also investing in its transport infrastructure, with new international terminals opening at Antalya and Istanbul airports.

The types of incentive currently offered to investors in tourism include long-term grants of government-owned

land at lower rents, tax exemptions, import rights, the right to employ foreign staff, and low utility rates. But incentives are no longer on offer for the Aegean and Mediterranean coasts. The Ministry is worried that overdevelopment is destroying Turkey's tourist assets.

Overdevelopment has also left the Mediterranean with too many hotels. The Ministry and tour operators are working together to entice visitors to new destinations, like the relatively under developed Black Sea coast and south-east Anatolia.

The South-East offers a number of cultural and religious monuments, but its tourism potential has been devastated by Kurdish terrorism in the area. Now, with the terrorists pushed further east and out of urban centres, the ministry is hoping to persuade tourists that the area is safe. "It's so hard to make people go. If they go and see what's going on, their opinions will change," says Mr Karabulut.

JUSTIN HUGGLES

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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Hampel 'supercode' published

THE FINAL version of the Hampel "supercode" on corporate governance was published yesterday. The final version of the code - which is virtually identical to the draft published earlier this year - combines the existing Cadbury and Greenbury codes in an attempt to produce a definitive guide to best practice in corporate governance. The code has attracted criticism from corporate governance specialists, many of whom believe it will be unable to prevent many corporate abuses.

Outlook, page 19

Psiion shares soar further

SHARES IN Psiion continued their meteoric rise yesterday in the wake of the hand-held computer maker's software joint venture which it announced on Tuesday. The shares jumped 175.5p to 602.5p, an all-time high. They have now trebled in value in the past week. Psiion's link-up with mobile phone makers Ericsson, Nokia and Motorola gives the company a chance of becoming the industry standard in the market for smart mobile phones and hand-held computers.

Rethink on dividend tax

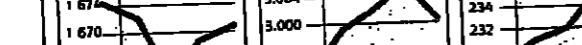
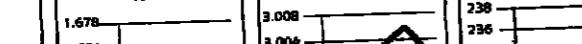
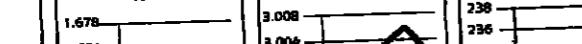
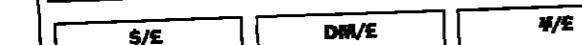
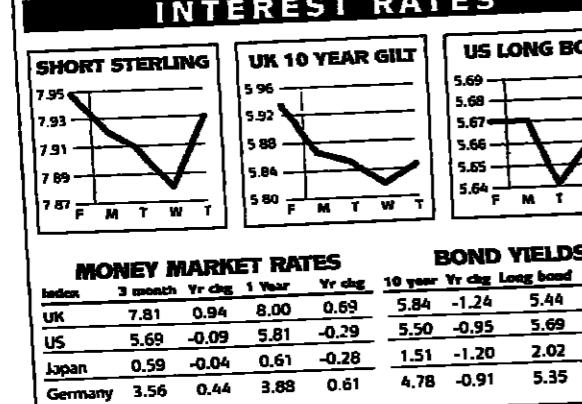
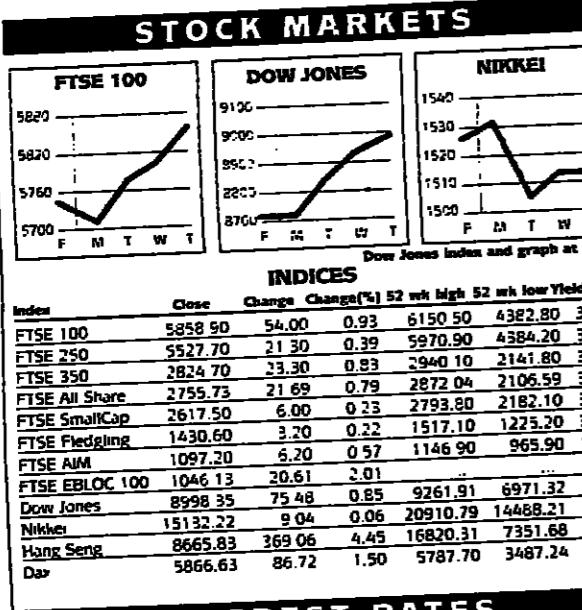
THE TREASURY is next week expected to make a last-minute change to a key plank of its July Budget after being warned it would unfairly rebound on more than half a million shareholders who are too poor to pay tax.

Goeffrey Robinson MP, the paymaster general, is on Tuesday expected to table an amendment to give relief to pensioners, children and unemployed shareholders who would be hit by the centre-piece of Gordon Brown's July Budget, the abolition of dividend tax credits.

The abolition was attacked by the Opposition last year for its effect on pension funds, which the Treasury estimated would get up to £5bn a year less in tax reliefs.

But it has since emerged it will also hit more than 300,000 non-taxpaying pensioners who supplement their pension with dividend income. According to Age Concern, which met Mr Robinson yesterday, some pensioners are set to lose hundreds of pounds each, while the Treasury would gain just £50m.

- Andrew Verity



TOURIST RATES

Australia (\$)	2.6705	Mexican (nuevo peso)	13.47
Austria (schillings)	20.44	Netherlands (guilders)	3.2793
Belgium (francs)	60.13	New Zealand (\$)	3.1111
Canada (\$)	2.3878	Norway (krone)	12.38
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8497	Portugal (escudos)	294.83
Denmark (kroner)	11.16	Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.0806
Finland (markka)	8.9002	Singapore (\$)	2.6370
France (francs)	9.7592	Spain (pesetas)	246.49
Germany (marks)	2.9217	South Africa (rand)	8.7581
Greece (drachma)	4.9034	Sweden (krona)	12.85
Hong Kong (\$)	12.53	Switzerland (francs)	2.4497
Ireland (pounds)	1.1525	Thailand (bahts)	61.79
Italian (rupees)	65.30	Turkey (liras)	425120
Israel (shekels)	5.6458	USA (\$)	1.6302
Italy (lira)	2882	<i>Fares for indication purposes only</i>	
Japan (yen)	230.73	<i>Derek Pain, page 23</i>	
Malaysia (ringgit)	6.2621	<i>Source: Thomas Cook</i>	
Malta (lira)	0.6306		

Air France's £2bn aid is ruled illegal

BY RANDEEP RAMESH
Transport Correspondent

A STATE handout worth £2bn to bail out Air France was illegal and should not have received approval from the European Commission, a Brussels court ruled yesterday.

A European Union court said in a landmark ruling that the Commission had wrongly approved the rescue package to the French national airline in 1994. In one of the 15-nation bloc's most controversial state aid cases, the Luxembourg-based Court of First Instance attacked the Commission's written approval for the aid as flawed.

Although competition has come to Europe's skies, many airlines have been recipients of large slabs of cash from national governments. The ruling could mean that part of the £2bn granted in aid to European airlines since 1991 is returned to national governments.

The sums could be huge. Since 1990, Spain's Iberia has received more than £1.5bn in state aid despite, according to consultants McKinsey, having the most "inefficient" pilots in the world. Other major beneficiaries have been Greece's Olympic and Air Portugal -

Both the Commission and Air France dismissed speculation that the ruling may mean that the £2bn handout would have to be paid back to the French government.

A spokeswoman for Neil Kinnock, the EU Transport Commissioner who approved the subsidy, said there was no ques-

tion of Air France being asked to repay the money, at least while the Commission was "examining" what action to take.

The legal wrangling is likely to continue. The Commission, which has to respond by the end of July, could appeal to a higher court or might "re-argue" its case differently.

BA said that some monies could be returned - and pointed out that the cash spent on the new aircraft should be clawed back from the company.

Air France's rivals were quick to applaud the judges' decision. "This sends a clear message to every state airline in Europe that the future lies in private hands, not in the pocket of the taxpayer," said BA's spokesman in Brussels, Andre Clodong.

Hans Olofsson, director of European and public affairs at Scandinavian airline SAS, said it was a "legal landmark". SAS had complained because state aid distorted competition.

However, the Commission said the ruling had no bearing on any other state aid decisions in the aviation sector nor on state aid policy in general.

Outlook, page 19

All is in the presentation with coal

LEAVING THROUGH the usual pile of anonymously leaked memos and confidential documents that daily arrive through the post, we stumbled across a letter, apparently sent about a week ago, by Alastair Campbell to Margaret Beckett at the Board of Trade, copied to the PM. In the interests of open government, we here reproduce it.

Dear Margaret, This really isn't good enough, not good enough at all. I've just been reading your proposed statement to the house on the energy review and I can tell you right now that you are not to say anything of the kind. Don't forget. There's a reshuffle coming up and everyone's expendable, even me, so let's get straight. This energy review thing is nothing to do with saving miners' jobs. You are certainly not to say that you've guaranteed a market for coal that will safeguard the pits.

Don't get me wrong. I love the miners as much as you, though that Richard Budge can go take a jump as far as I'm concerned. But we have a wider constituency to satisfy now - the free market. And markets don't take kindly to the sort of meddling that we're about to get up to. So we are going to present it this way, alright. You will say that the



OUTLOOK

Government will not be subsidising coal or guaranteeing a market for it, but instead will be addressing the serious distortions that exist in the electricity pool which disadvantage coal to the detriment of consumers. Clever eh?

We all know that the simplest way to have done this would simply be to tell the generators to buy more coal and stop the building of any more gas-fired power stations, but in the modern, globalised world you are not allowed to do that sort of thing. The approach will be to blame it all on the electricity pool and the profiteering generators. I don't understand how the pool works, you don't understand how the

pool works, nobody in their right mind would take time to understand it, so we'll get away with it, right.

What we'll say is that no more gas-fired stations can be built until we've ironed out the distortions in the pool. That'll give coal a reprieve long enough for everyone to forget this whole silly business ever happened, which I'm sure you'll agree is the object of the exercise. What happens after that is

of no concern.

Yours Tony (sorry, Alastair).

Pyrrhic victory over Air France

ONE OF the most infuriating things about the European Union is its tendency to slam the door after the horse has long since bolted. The wheels of justice grind exceedingly slow in anything to do with Brussels, but the Luxembourg-based Court of First Instance finally got round to ruling yesterday that the European Commission had been wrong to sanction a \$3.5bn package of rescue aid for Air France, originally granted more than four years ago. However, having eventually come to the "right" judgment, it is not immedi-

ately apparent the Brussels machine can or will do anything about it.

The Commission's original decision was always an outrageous one, notwithstanding the fact that, since airlines don't operate in properly competitive markets, it may not be appropriate to expect them and the governments who sponsor them to act as if they do. Even the mighty British Airways was sped into the private sector on the back of a huge write-off of government debt. Its extraordinary monopoly of slots at Heathrow might be viewed as another form of state aid altogether.

Even so, it is plainly unfair that now highly efficient private sector airlines like BA be forced to operate against ones kept alive on a constant diet of state handouts. In any other business, many of these airlines would long since have gone to the wall. In the case of Air France, moreover, some of the aid was immediately splashed out on 17 new aircraft, which helped give the airline a competitive edge on long haul transatlantic routes. No amount of fancy language could dress this up as a "restructuring" expense, the only sort of state aid allowed under European rules.

So can Air France now be forced to hand the money back? Ex prob-

ably not. For a start, it is not obvious the judgment requires any action, and if it doesn't that would allow the Commission to adopt a "point stance" and then move on to other business. Nor is it obvious that Air France could in practice pay back all or even some of the money without becoming insolvent. We're all in favour of a rigid adherence to the rules of fair competition but to knock a competitor out of the market altogether in their name might seem just a little counter-productive.

British Airways and others who complained to the Commission about the aid may have scored a victory but it is all too likely to prove a pyrrhic one. The chances of anything coming of it look remote. All the same, an important marker has been laid down. This is the single European market now. Woe betide anyone who thinks that state aid stuff again.

A supercode of tedious flannel

MENTION THE phrase "corporate governance" at a City drinks party these days and you can guarantee that eyes across the room will glaze over. The issue of what does and

does not constitute good boardroom practice is about as far away as you can get from a political hot potato at the moment. Not surprisingly, therefore, the publication yesterday of the final version of the Hampel supercode was greeted by a round of barely stifled yawns.

But even if corporate governance

was the hottest topic around, it's hard to imagine that the new supercode could ever make the blood run hot. The code - a remarkably flimsy pamphlet, given the amount of work that has supposedly gone into it - is a hotchpotch of tedious flannel and the downright obvious.

Try this for size: "When evaluating companies' governance arrangements, institutional investors should give due weight to all relevant factors." You don't say. And then there's this little gem: "Institutional shareholders have a responsibility to make considered use of their votes. Here's another: "Boards should use the AGM to communicate with private investors." So that's the point of an annual general meeting of shareholders, is it?

None of this is to say that corporate governance is an unimportant issue. It is easy to be complacent about corporate governance when we're at the top of the economic cycle, and the Maxwell's of this world are nothing more than a dark and distant memory. But when the downturn comes - as it seems to be with gathering speed - you can bet the abuse and malpractice will come crawling out of the woodwork. Recession, it often said, is like a withdrawing tide, exposing the corporate wrecks that lie beneath the waves.

What we need is a code with teeth - not a code that tiptoes around the issues. Perhaps more important, we also need a radical change in our shareholding culture. The determined rotten apple will always be able to circumvent even the strictest, most rigorously enforced code on corporate governance.

What can make a real difference are institutional shareholders who take a genuine interest in the company's health, who liaise with the company on a regular basis and are not afraid to make their opinions heard. We must continue to expect the worst as long as the owners of our companies remain so apathetic. Certainly they only have themselves to blame if things go wrong for them.



Queues could be a thing of the past with Asda's triple attack on the home shopping market Daily Record

New moves to make shopping come home

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

ASDA YESTERDAY announced a three-pronged attack on the home shopping market with plans to launch a grocery home delivery service, an on-line home entertainment offer and a digital television channel selling non-food lines like its George range of clothing.

The move adds further impetus to the small but growing market in home delivery services offered by large supermarkets.

Asda's rivals such as Tesco, Sainsbury's and Marks & Spencer are already testing home shopping schemes, although so far only Iceland has extended its scheme nationally.

Commenting on the new initiatives yesterday, Allan Leighton, Asda's chief executive, said: "This is research and development. We don't know how big this market will be. But these schemes will enable us to take market share in areas where we are currently under-represented."

The difference between Asda's scheme and those of its competitors is that it will be run from a central facility rather than from individual stores. Asda is setting up a warehouse and call centre in south London that will enable it to target 450,000 customers in a six-mile radius in which it has no stores. Total investment will be £25m.

Asda has yet to price the service, but it is likely to be cheaper than the £4 to £5 fee charged by rivals. Asda says the warehouse will be able to cope with 1,000 orders per week but will break even at 500 orders at an average value of £200.

Customers choose their goods from a paper catalogue and then place their order through to the call centre. They will then be given a two-hour "window" during which their

News Analysis: Every major UK supermarket is testing or offering home delivery. But is it profitable?

shopping will be delivered.

Mr Leighton said: "We have searched the world looking at various models on home delivery and hardly anyone is making money out of it. The only way is to have a dedicated centre because running them out of the back of a store just cannibalises sales."

He said the best models he had found were Peapod and ShopLink, both based in the United States and both run from central warehouses. Asda is strong in the Midlands and the North, but only has a 7 per cent market share within the M25 around London. Home delivery will enable it to add sales without opening stores.

According to his research, home delivery could take 10 per cent of the UK food retail market within the next 10 years, a figure equivalent to £15bn in sales.

Mr Dunn thinks there are two main reasons for the UK supermarkets starting home delivery trials. One is defensive; while opening stores.

competitive advantage over its rivals. Simon Dunn, food retail analyst at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, said: "The key differences are that they are doing it from a stand-alone warehouse which is different to just about any other retailer in Britain. And they are doing it where they don't have any stores."

Tesco Direct runs from 11 stores and costs £4. Safeway is operating a simpler "Collect & Go" scheme from its Basildon branch, which costs £2. Somerfield is running a scheme from 35 outlets and will extend it nationally later this year. Iceland has already launched a nationwide home delivery service and been rewarded with a huge leap in sales.

They are following supermarket chains in the US which have been operating trials for some time. Few make money, and most have been run from within stores, which means the cost base and risk of cannibalisation are higher. However, some US firms have expressed interest in signing joint ventures that could see them start operating schemes in the UK.

Clive Vaughan of Verdict, the retail consultancy, feels home delivery services will have a role to play, but will not capture the 10 per cent to 20 per cent share some have predicted.

"It is not for lower-income groups, and people will still want to visit the store for their fresh foods." He said he could see a growing market for "collect and go" schemes that cover packaged food such as cereals and canned goods.

"The supermarket groups are doing this because of fear. They don't want to miss out if it does turn out to be a big market and someone else has come in and taken it. But it is not the death of the supermarket. If it accounts for 5 per cent of the sector in 15 to 20 years' time I will be amazed," said Mr Vaughan.

Andrew Fowler at Morgan Stanley was more cautious, saying: "Home shopping will not take a large share of the food market at any time in the next 10 years. But it will grow and the main players are start-

ing schemes in order to learn."

It is no coincidence that every major UK supermarket has started a home shopping trial in the last two years. Sainsbury's is now running one from 32 stores. It costs £5 for home delivery and £3.50 if customers come to the store themselves to collect their shopping.

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"THE RIGHT DECISION
SHOULDN'T BE
SOMETHING YOU MAKE
TOO LATE." ANON.

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An uphill struggle for the Chancellor

THE BRITISH economy has had an unusually good run for the past five years. It has been a long recovery and, at least last year, a vigorous one. But no Chancellor can escape the business cycle, and the downturn is coming. As far as anybody can tell from here, it is not going to be as severe as the last one, but it will still pose a challenge to the Government's broader ambitions for the economy. And these are broad indeed. Gordon Brown wants to raise the UK's level of productivity towards those achieved by its competitors, and he wants to tackle the severe problems of withdrawal from work, income inequality and poverty the Government inherited.

Just in case anybody was in danger of underestimating the size of the task, the OECD's annual report on the UK, published earlier this week, sets out these problems in all their glory, with chapters on both welfare-to-work and competitiveness. Although it concludes that the Government is adopting pretty much the right strategy, it is hard to emerge from reading the document feeling optimistic. Just to run through the extent of the structural problems in the jobs market is sobering.

For instance, Britain has enjoyed one of the best recent performances in reducing unemployment, which has fallen to 6.4 per cent on the internationally comparable measure. Yet another 6.5 per cent of the working age population, 2.3 million people, would like jobs but are not classified as unemployed. Nor has there been any growth to speak of in the employment rate since the business cycle upturn started in 1992. The number of "economically inactive" but not "unemployed" people who want a job has been rising by 5 per cent a year throughout the recovery.

So the structural unemployment rate might have fallen, but it has had no effect on the employment rate. The proportion of the workforce that is actually working is higher in the UK than most of the Continent, but well below its peak in the late 1980s, and below the rates in the US, Japan and most of Scandinavia.

A closer look at the people who are out of work reveals that younger women have been entering the workforce in greater numbers, while older men have been dropping out. The fastest-growing group amongst the 2.3 million "inactives" who want jobs are the

ECONOMICS



DIANE COYLE

Brown wants to raise productivity and tackle withdrawal from work, income inequality and poverty ... don't expect too much too soon

long-term sick and disabled, mostly older, unskilled men. Lone parents form the next category - the UK has more than a million, and fewer of them work than in most other OECD countries. Finally, there are the spouses of the unemployed, trapped by the benefit system.

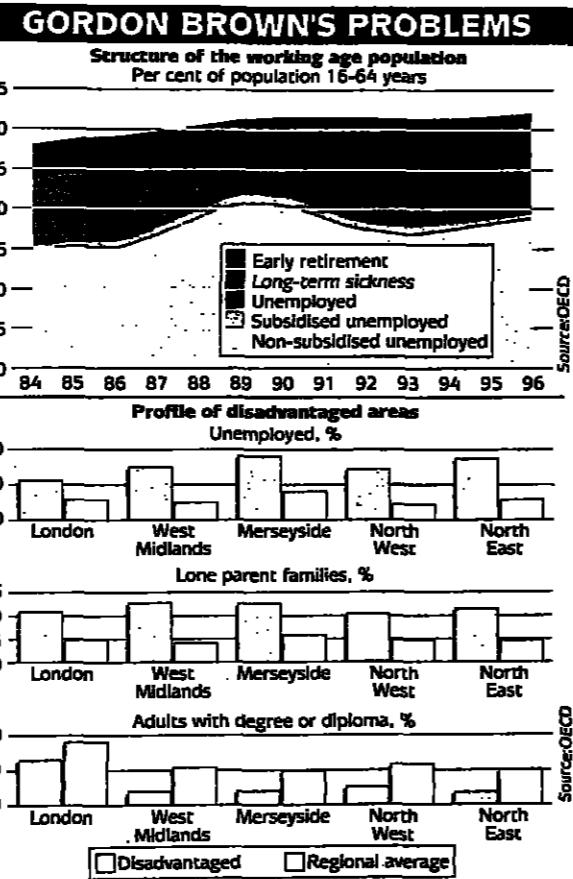
Side by side with this chronic lack of work problem goes the UK's above-average income inequality, dramatically increased since the late 1970s. The highest-earning tenth of the population now makes eight times the lowest earners, up from a ratio of

about 4.5 times in 1979. Twenty years ago the typical person on low-income was a pensioner. Now poverty is more likely to affect the unemployed, the sick and disabled and lone parents, and a third of British children live in poverty.

Changes in the world of work seem to account for much of the increase in poverty and inequality, especially the changing industrial structure, which has seen traditional manufacturing decline and advanced services grow. This has made for increased returns to educational attainments and skills. People with a degree on average earn more than double those who leave school before A-levels.

The link means tackling the jobs market will help tackle poverty and inequality, and perhaps more effectively than direct welfare reform. The key is therefore, as the OECD puts it, "harnessing the potential of those who are non-active but willing to work" - or raising the employment rate as opposed to reducing the unemployment rate. But getting more people into work means qualifying more of them for available jobs.

The report is therefore sceptical about the New Deal and its direct jobs subsidies. It places more emphasis on "active" policies that help match workers to jobs by providing information and in-depth advice



from the Employment Service Schemes that help with travel to job interviews and support with applications, photocopying and letter writing can also be surprisingly effective. More of this sort of help is needed in the most deprived areas.

Of course, these are no miracle cures. The other element in improving employability is raising the skill level of the inactive workforce. Unemployment amongst those with university or further education qualifications stands at less than 4 per cent, compared with 12 per cent amongst those who leave school at 16. It was the focus of a seminar this week held by the Smith Institute, the new think tank founded in memory of the late Labour leader John Smith. Participants emphasised the links between education, equality and economic success, especially in the most deprived areas.

However, with many young people leaving school without basic literacy and numeracy skills, tackling the broader economic and social problems through the education system is an uphill task - and one that will not help the older people trapped outside the jobs market. The OECD's authors conclude: "It will take many years before the average qualification achievement in the UK reaches a level similar to that in most OECD countries" - especially when all parts of the UK education system are crying for more cash.

Nevertheless, the new report places more hopes on a combination of skill improvements and "active" labour market policies than on tax and benefit reforms such as the new working families tax credit. The latter approach is only likely to make any inroads into poverty if the Government is prepared to spend a lot more money, because of the inescapable trade-offs in the tax and benefit system. Incentives to work for those on low incomes can only be improved by pushing the disincentives further up the income scale.

Even so, the Government is without doubt adopting the right sorts of policies. They will make a start on raising potential output, get more people who want to work into jobs, increase the incomes of the poorest and reduce inequality. But the unwelcome moral is that it would be a mistake to expect too much too soon, especially with the economy heading straight for the chilly waters of a downturn.

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Watchdog David Edmonds wants firms to make prices easier to compare

Phone companies face action on tariff details

THE NEW director-general of Ofcom, the telecoms watchdog, is threatening to use his official powers if telecoms companies do not come up with a way of publishing their tariffs so they can be easily compared.

David Edmonds, who took over his post at the beginning of April, has written to the chief executives of all the major residential telecoms operators, threatening them with regulatory action if they do not release information on prices.

His move follows the failure of a working party of telecoms operators, set up with Ofcom's encouragement, to come up with a template that would allow residential customers to compare their prices easily.

The committee had asked Analysys, the consultancy based in Cambridge, to come up with a format that would represent their prices properly. However, Analysys complained that it could not do the job because the telecoms operators would not give it sufficient information about their tariff structures.

Mr Edmonds is especially concerned that the myriad of different rates and discounts on offer at the moment only confuse the consumer. He wants the industry to produce a chart that will allow customers to compare charges and decide which service suits them best.

However, prices are particularly difficult to compare.

British Telecom's "Friends and Family" offer gives users extra discounts on numbers they call regularly. Meanwhile, Cable & Wireless Communications has set a maximum charge of 50p

on weekend national calls. Other cable operators do not charge for calls between their own subscribers in the same area.

As a result, the telecoms operators complain that squeezing their prices into a fixed template would be misleading. But Mr Edmonds has demanded that they come up with a comprehensive chart by the autumn, or else face the prospect of Ofcom forcing them to adopt a fixed template.

Mr Edmonds's actions will delight consumer groups, who have long complained that telecoms prices only serve to confuse.

But business users will be disappointed that his initiative does not stretch to business rates. Mr Edmonds argues that companies are more capable of working out for themselves which rates offer best value.

CANAL PLUS, the French media group, said yesterday it was willing to sell its 24.9 per cent stake in German pay-television group Vox TV to companies owned by Rupert Murdoch, but any deal needed approval by its partner Bertelsmann, the German group.

Medicine man

BIOCOMPATIBLES International, the medical products producer, yesterday appointed Crispin Simon as chief executive. Mr Simon was president of Smith & Nephew's endoscopy unit.

Next's new way

NEXT PLC, the fashion retailer, said yesterday it was closing seven company-owned stores in the US, France and Belgium, but it would continue to expand abroad through franchise operations.

Next said it had decided to close the stores at a cost of £3.4m because they had not performed as expected.

Pay-TV sale

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Bank merger off

MERRILL LYNCH and Chase Manhattan abandoned merger talks after it became clear that a tie-up would have been difficult to carry out successfully because of differences in the two companies' corporate cultures, the Wall Street Journal reported yesterday.

Boots package

LORD BLYTH of Rowington, deputy chairman and chief executive of Boots, received a pay and bonuses package of £271,000 last year, up from £258,000 last time, according to the group's latest annual report and accounts.

Chief resigns

STEPHEN THOMSON resigned as chief executive of Calderburn, the furnishings group, following a "difference of opinion on strategic development". He was replaced by Oliver Chapple, a non-executive director.

St Ives founder sells up for £24m

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK



garner around £24m at yesterday's closing price of 519.5p, down 17p on the day. The shares are being placed in the market.

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the Trustee Act 1925 that any person having a claim against or an interest in the assets of the THYSSEN HANIEL RETIREMENT BENEFITS PLAN (formerly known as the Haniel Transport (UK) Limited Retirement Benefits Plan) established by a Trust Deed dated 30 July 1976 is required to send particulars of his claim or interest to the solicitors to the Trustees at the address given below before 30 September 1998; after which date the assets of the said Plan will be distributed by the trustees among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interest of which they have had notice.

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Mr Gavron says he intends to keep the rest of the shares for the foreseeable future.

LAWRENCE URQUHART, former boss of Burmah Castrol and currently deputy chairman of BAA, has been named as Sir Brian Smith's successor as chairman of the airports group.

Marcus Agius, the evergreen vice-chairman of Lazarus Brothers and a non-executive director at BAA, will become deputy chairman. Stepping into his shoes will be Christopher Fay, chairman and chief executive of Shell UK, who joins as a non-executive director.

I THOUGHT Malcolm Williamson was supposed to be "retiring"

from Standard Chartered when he was replaced as chief executive by Rana Talwar a fortnight ago.

Now our Malcolm, a sprightly 60, has popped up as chief executive officer of Visa International, the global payments system with 21,000 member financial institutions and a turnover of \$1 trillion. Hardly a part-time retirement job, to be fitted in between golf and tending the roses.

Mr Williamson was chosen by his old mate Peter Ellwood, chairman of the Visa International board of directors, who led the selection committee for the new CEO. Both men spent most of their early careers with Barclays Bank, which they joined over 25 years ago. Mr Williamson was at Barclays until 1985, and Mr Ellwood, now chief executive at Lloyds Bank, left Barclays four years later.

ALLAN LEIGHTON, chief executive of Asda, was limping slightly yesterday, having picked up a slight hamstring strain in the latest crunch Asda five-a-side footie match on Monday night.

Mr Leighton's "Asda House" team from head office trounced the Gravesham store 28-8 in a grueling 70-minute fixture in Leeds. The Tony Adams-style Mr Leighton, normally known for his no-nonsense tackling, netted five goals. That was nothing next to "inspirational midfielder" Archie Norman, the chairman, who demonstrated his sulky skills with a startling 10 goals.

A jubilant Mr Leighton observed: "They came up to give us a good kicking but we gave them one instead." Perhaps Glenn Hoddle should be informed.

STILL ON Asda, the super-

market chain has set up a "rent-a-hunk" scheme for World Cup widows, titled "World Cup Hunks".

It's aimed at female customers who have been deserted by their sofa-bound husbands. Customers can ring up and be partnered with a muscle-bound Adonis for the weekly grocery run.

Asda has hired rugby players, firemen and other well-built blokes uninterested in footie to dress down in "ripped T-shirts or skimpy vests," it says here.

A company spokesman says:

"It's proved quite popular.

We haven't had any complaints from irate hubbies yet."

STAND BY for the inauguration ceremony for the European Central Bank on 30 June in Frankfurt. There will be a stellar audience for the bash, including William F Duisenberg, President of the new bank.

Lucky attendees will hear addresses by Tony Blair in his role as President of the European Council, plus Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission and Helmut Kohl, Chancellor of Germany, to name but a few.

They will also thrill to the entertainment being laid on:

The Royal Dutch Male Voice Choir, plus Riverdance performed by an Irish Dance Ensemble.

Wake me up when its over.

BIOCOMPATIBLES International has appointed Crispin Simon as chief executive officer, to fill the hole left by Allister Taylor, who left in February. Mr Simon has held senior posts at Smith & Nephew, Rezaan and McKinsey & Company.

These rates of interest apply with effect from 1 July 1998.

Gross: The rate before the deduction of tax applicable to savings accounts.

Net: The rate after the deduction of tax applicable to interest on savings accounts, currently 20%.

Higher rate tax payers will have an additional liability.

Tax Free: Interest is free of income tax.

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£25,000+	5.75% 4.60% 5.61% 4.45%
£10,000+	5.25% 4.20% 5.13% 4.10%
£5,000+	5.00% 4.00% 4.89% 3.91%
Up to £5,000	4.50% 3.60% 4.41% 3.52%

High Interest Savings (60 days notice)	Annual Option		Monthly Option	
	Gross	Net	Gross	Net
£100,000+	7.00%	5.60%	6.79%	5.43%
£50,000+	6.90%	5.52%	6.70%	5.36%
£25,000+	6.80%	5.44%	6.60%	5.28%
£10,000+	6.70%	5.36%	6.51%	5.20%
£5,000+	6.60%	5.28%	6.41%	5.12%
Up to £5,000	6.50%	5.20%	6.32%	5.05%

MAIN MOVERS																	
RISES								FALLS									
	Price	Chg	Ytd	P/E	Code		Price	Chg	Ytd	P/E	Code		Price	Chg	Ytd	P/E	Code
GENERAL																	
192 900 High Tech	223.00	14.37	51	10.5	1000		316.00	-1.48	52	10.1	1000		181.00	-1.00	51	10.1	1000
193 400 High Tech	195.00	11.44	148	10.0	1000		317.00	-1.47	177	10.0	1000		182.00	-0.92	52	10.2	1000
194 400 High Tech	166.00	8.32	101	10.0	1000		318.00	-1.44	52	10.1	1000		183.00	-0.95	51	10.1	1000
195 725 Home Dev.	165.00	8.32	101	10.0	1000		319.00	-1.45	52	10.1	1000		184.00	-0.96	51	10.1	1000
196 725 Home Dev.	165.00	8.32	101	10.0	1000		320.00	-1.45	52	10.1	1000		185.00	-0.97	51	10.1	1000
197 725 Home Dev.	165.00	8.32	101	10.0	1000		321.00	-1.45	52	10.1	1000		186.00	-0.98	51	10.1	1000
198 725 Home Dev.	165.00	8.32	101	10.0	1000		322.00	-1.45	52	10.1	1000		187.00	-0.99	51	10.1	1000
199 725 Home Dev.	165.00	8.32	101	10.0	1000		323.00	-1.45	52	10.1	1000		188.00	-0.99	51	10.1	1000
200 725 Home Dev.	165.00	8.32	101	10.0	1000		324.00	-1.45	52	10.1	1000		189.00	-0.99	51	10.1	1000
201 725 Home Dev.	165.00	8.32	101	10.0	1000		325.00	-1.45	52	10.1	1000		190.00	-0.99	51	10.1	1000
202 725 Home Dev.	165.00	8.32	101	10.0	1000		326.00	-1.45	52	10.1	1000		191.00	-0.99	51	10.1	1000
203 725 Home Dev.	165.00	8.32	101	10.0	1000		327.00	-1.45	52	10.1	1000		192.00	-0.99	51	10.1	1000
204 725 Home Dev.	165.00	8.32	101	10.0	1000		328.00	-1.45	52	10.1	1000		193.00	-0.99	51	10.1	1000
205 725 Home Dev.	165.00	8.32	101	10.0	1000		329.00	-1.45	52	10.1	1000		194.00	-0.99	51	10.1	1000
206 725 Home Dev.	165.00	8.32	101	10.0	1000		330.00	-1.45	52	10.1	1000		195.00	-0.99	51	10.1	1000
207 725 Home Dev.	165.00	8.32	101	10.0	1000		331.00	-1.45	52	10.1	1000		196.00	-0.99	51	10.1	1000
208 725 Home Dev.	165.00	8.32	101	10.0	1000		332.00	-1.45	52	10.1	1000		197.00	-0.99	51	10.1	1000
209 725 Home Dev.	165.00	8.32	101	10.0	1000		333.00	-1.45	52	10.1	1000		198.00	-0.99	51	10.1	1000
210 725 Home Dev.	165.00	8.32	101	10.0	1000		334.00	-1.45	52	10.1	1000		199.00	-0.99	51	10.1	1000
211 725 Home Dev.	165.00	8.32	101	10.0	1000		335.00	-1.45	52	10.1	1000		200.00	-0.99	51	10.1	1000
212 725 Home Dev.	165.00	8.32	101	10.0	1000		336.00	-1.45	52	10.1	1000		201.00	-0.99	51	10.1	1000
213 725 Home Dev.	165.00	8.32	101	10.0	1000		337.00	-1.45	52	10.1	1000		202.00	-0.99	51	10.1	1000
214 725 Home Dev.	165.00	8.32	101	10.0	1000		338.00	-1.45	52	10.1	1000		203.00	-0.99	51	10.1	1000
215 725 Home Dev.	165.00	8.32	101	10.0	1000		339.00	-1.45	52	10.1	1000		204.00	-0.99	51	10.1	1000
216 725 Home Dev.	165.00	8.32	101	10.0	1000		340.00	-1.45	52	10.1	1000		205.00	-0.99	51	10.1	1000
217 725 Home Dev.	165.00	8.32	101	10.0	1000		341.00	-1.45	52	10.1	1000		206.00	-0.99	51	10.1	1000
218 725 Home Dev.	165.00	8.32	101	10.0	1000		342.00	-1.45	52	10.1	1000		207.00	-0.99	51	10.1	1000
219 725 Home Dev.	165.00	8.32	101	10.0	1000		343.00	-1.45	52	10.1	1000		208.00	-0.99	51	10.1	1000
220 725 Home Dev.	165.00	8.32	101	10.0	1000		344.00	-1.45	52	10.1	1000		209.00	-0.99	51	10.1	1000
221 725 Home Dev.	165.00	8.32	101	10.0	1000		345.00	-1.45	52	10.1	1000		210.00	-0.99	51	10.1	1000
222 725 Home Dev.	165.00	8.32	101	10.0	1000		346.00	-1.45	52	10.1	1000		211.00	-0.99	51	10.1	1000
223 725 Home Dev.	165.00	8.32	101	10.0	1000		347.00	-1.45	52	10.1	1000		212.00	-0.99	51	10.1	1000
224 725 Home Dev.	165.00	8.32	101	10.0	1000		348.00	-1.45	52	10.1	1000		213.00	-0.99	51	10.1	1000
225 725 Home Dev.	165.00	8.32	101	10.0	1000		349.00	-1.45	52	10.1	1000		214.00	-0.99	51	10.1	1000
226 725 Home Dev.	165.00	8.32	101	10.0	1000		350.00	-1.45	52	10.1	1000		215.00	-0.99	51	10.1	1000
227 725 Home Dev.	165.00	8.32	101	10.0	1000		351.00	-1.45	52	10.1	1000		216.00	-0.99	51	10.1	1000
228 725 Home Dev.	165.00	8.32	101	10.0	1000		352.00	-1.45	52	10.1	1000		217.00	-0.99	51	10.1	1000
229 725 Home Dev.	165.00	8.32	101	10.0	1000		353.00	-1.45	52	10.1	1000		218.00	-0.99	51	10.1	1000
230 725 Home Dev.	165.00	8.32	101	10.0	1000		354.00	-1.45	52	10.1	1000		219.00	-0.99	51	10.1	1000
231 725 Home Dev.	165.00	8.32	101	10.0	1000		355.00	-1.45	52	10.1	1000		220.00	-0.99	51	10.1	1000
232 725 Home Dev.	165.00	8.32	101	10.0	1000		356.00	-1.45	52	10.1	1000		221.00	-0.99	51	10.1	1000
233 725 Home Dev.	165.00	8.32	101	10.0	1000		357.00	-1.45	52	10.1	1000		222.00	-0.99	51	10.1	1000
234 725 Home Dev.	165.00	8.32	101	10.0	1000		358.00	-1.45	52	10.1	1000		223.00	-0.99	51	10.1</td	

Financials keep Footsie moving

FINANCIALS PULLED Footsie higher although growing fears about the impact of the Asian crisis weighed heavily on some blue chips.

Footsie finished 54 points stronger at 5,858.3 and even the mid and small cap indices managed to make headway.

An overnight rally in Hong Kong predictably lifted the HSBC banking group 87p to 1,546p, and other financials attracted attention on the theory they had been sold too aggressively in recent times. Close Brothers, the banker, gained 59.5p to 833.5p.

With the financial quarter ending next week most fund managers are content to busy themselves preparing their quarterly reports and with the exception of tried and tested shares they are keen to keep their powder dry until the next quarter is under way.

Second- and third-line shares at last perked up. After an 11-day losing streak the mid cap index improved to 5,527.7 and the small cap index improved 6 to 2,617.5. It was the longest mid cap decline for four years.

Auda, on its results, put on 10.5p to 205p and Carlton Communications rose 26p to 550p on Henderson Crosthwaite support.

Rolls-Royce, down 10.5p to 236p, was one of the Asian casualties, ignoring hopes that President Clinton's visit to China will bring some stability to the Far East. Its shares have been in a steep dive since hitting a 304.5p peak last month as the stock market fretted about Far Eastern orders being delayed or even cancelled.

The Asian interests of Diageo and Allied Domecq were largely responsible for the downcast appearance of the two spirit groups. Allied fell 16p to 564p (against 634p in April) and Diageo lost 13p to 695p (764p last month).

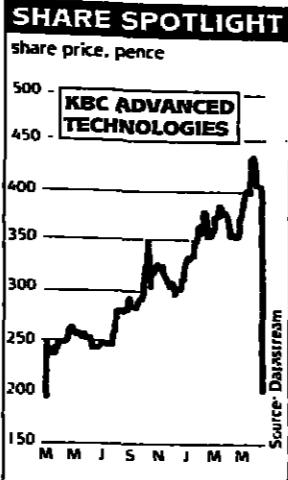
Allied's weakness has been exacerbated by its failure, at least so far, to respond to the creation of Diageo by forging links with other spirit groups.

Next booted out of Footsie on Monday, firmed 3p to 521.5p. It is closing its seven overseas stores, five in the US, which incurred losses of £3.4m last year.

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN



The retailer's fall from grace - its shares were 835p earlier this year - has not deterred Tiger Management, the US hedge fund where Baroness Thatcher is an adviser, from increasing its shareholding. It has acquired

Pisces was the day's star performer. The hand-held computer maker jumped 179p to 602.5p. Since details of its superphone deal started to emerge on Wednesday the

shares regained 19p to 176.5p. They were 316.5p before Monday's profit warning.

Buying by the pub chain's new finance director, Paul Huberman, and property director, John Shimmen, helped sentiment.

Mr Huberman acquired 117,500 shares at 168p and Mr Shimmen 7,972 at the same price.

ISA INTERNATIONAL, where David Heap has acquired 14.84 per cent, rose 6p to 51.5p as nine directors bought 996,000 shares, mostly at 45.25p.

THE SHARE merry-go-round at Superframe, the shop fittings maker, continues.

Everett Financial, which emerged as a 6.88 per cent shareholder on Wednesday, has cut its stake to 3.16 per cent; a John Gilbert has sold 1 million shares.

Dean Corporation remains with 29.45 per cent. The shares are 22p.

SEAF VOLUME: 1.08 billion
SEAQ TRADES: 71,284
GILT INDEX: 105.10 -0.15

LIFFE FINANCIAL FUTURES									
Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Est. floor volume	Open interest	Open	Chg	Chg %	Chg p.m.
Long Gilr	108.79	109.03	108.72	52,279.00	12,707.00				
5 Yr Gilr	101.69	101.82	101.76	50,000	37,582.00				
German Bund	108.39	108.49	108.33	83,002.00	78,423.00				
Italian Bond	120.43	120.50	120.35	97,186.00	97,186.00				
Japan Govt Bd	121.33	121.37	121.34	100,000.00	121.34				
3 Mth Sterling	93.07	92.11	92.07	25,596.00	169,314.00				
Dec-98	92.13	92.18	92.12	31,299.00	186,963.00				
3 Mth Euromark	96.43	96.42	96.41	13,120.00	15,848.00				
Aug-98	96.38	96.36	96.34	10,450.00	15,848.00				
3 Mth Eurocall	95.94	95.96	95.94	54,500.00	200,792.00				
Dec-98	95.00	95.01	95.97	123,380.00	154,440.00				
3 Mth Euroyen	95.24	95.24	95.24	10,000.00	10,000.00				
3 Mth Euroswx	97.86	97.91	97.83	35,746.00	90,825.00				
Dec-98	97.88	97.74	97.68	32,145.00	97,193.00				
3 Mth Euro	97.88	97.78	97.88	10,000.00	10,000.00				
FTSE 100	593.00	595.00	590.00	21,607.00	158,189.00				

Liffe FTSE 100 INDEX OPTION									
Settlement	High	Low	Est. floor volume	Open interest	Open	Chg	Chg %	Chg p.m.	Chg p.m. %
Jul	108.79	109.03	108.72	52,279.00	12,707.00				
Call Imp	101.25	101.25	101.25	50,000	37,582.00				
Put	101.25	101.25	101.25	50,000	37,582.00				
Call Vol	101.25	101.25	101.25	50,000	37,582.00				
Put Vol	101.25	101.25	101.25	50,000	37,582.00				
Call Avg	101.25	101.25	101.25	50,000	37,582.00				
Put Avg	101.25	101.25	101.25	50,000	37,582.00				
Call Std Dev	101.25	101.25	101.25	50,000	37,582.00				
Put Std Dev	101.25	101.25	101.25	50,000	37,582.00				
Call Std Dev Vol	101.25	101.25	101.25	50,000	37,582.00				
Put Std Dev Vol	101.25	101.25	101.25	50,000	37,582.00				
Call Std Dev Avg	101.25	101.25	101.25	50,000	37,582.00				
Put Std Dev Avg	101.25	101.25	101.25	50,000	37,582.00				
Call Std Dev Std Dev	101.25	101.25	101.25	50,000	37,582.00				
Put Std Dev Std Dev	101.25	101.25	101.25	50,000	37,582.00				
Call Std Dev Std Dev Vol	101.25	101.25	101.25	50,000	37,582.00				
Put Std Dev Std Dev Vol	101.25	101.25	101.25	50,000	37,582.00				
Call Std Dev Std Dev Avg	101.25	101.25	101.25	50,000	37,582.00				
Put Std Dev Std Dev Avg	101.25	101.25	101.25	50,000	37,582.00				
Call Std Dev Std Dev Std Dev	101.25	101.25	101.25	50,000	37,582.00				
Put Std Dev Std Dev Std Dev	101.25	101.25	101.25	50,000	37,582.00				
Call Std Dev Std Dev Std Dev Vol	101.25	101.25	101.25	50,000	37,582.00				
Put Std Dev Std Dev Std Dev Vol	101.25	101.25	101.25</						

SPORT

THE INDEPENDENT
Friday 26 June 1998

Wimbledon: Haas exploits inside knowledge of game's most charismatic player as Britain's enigma engineers upset

Agassi succumbs to the new Becker

BY JOHN ROBERTS

HE MIGHT not be a natural successor to Boris Becker (who is?) or Michael Stich, but the 20-year-old Tommy Haas gave Germany reason for optimism yesterday by completing a second victory against Andre Agassi, 4-6, 6-1, 7-6, 6-4, in a match suspended overnight. If not "Boom Boom", then perhaps "Kicking Haas".

The 28-year-old Agassi, eliminated in the first round of the French Open by another of the rising generation, the 18-year-old Marat Safin, felt aggrieved when bad light stopped play on Wednesday night after a suspect baseline call towards the climax of the third set tie-break, which Haas won, 7-4.

Agassi informed the umpire, John Frame, how he felt about his decision not to over-rule, and the British official was booted off the court. Still, the popular 1992 champion had survived to fight another day. When the match resumed on the Centre Court, following rain delays

YESTERDAY AT WIMBLEDON

- Arazi defeats French Open champion and fifth seed Moya in four sets
- Wilkinson revives memories of past glory by beating Rosset in straight sets
- Defending champion Hingis reaches third round with straight-sets win

and a win for the Morocco's Hicham Arazi against Carlos Moya, the French Open champion. Haas remained unfazed, either by Agassi or those in the crowd willing the Las Vegan to win.

The desire for a face as familiar as Agassi's to progress to the later stages of the tournament was understandable. Between the showers, the men's singles has already been drained of five of the top eight seeds, including Britain's Greg Rusedski

(the No 4 seed), who retired hurt. The others are Marcelo Rios (No 2), Moya (No 5) Yevgeny Kafelnikov (No 7) and Cedric Pioline (No 8).

Chris Wilkinson's splendid effort in defeating the temperamental Swiss Marc Rosset yesterday, thereby joining Tim Henman in the British cause, was a rousing bonus, but the impression is that the women's singles is going to be the more interesting event.

Although Pete Sampras (No 1),

Petr Korda (No 3) and Pat Rafter (No 6) are due to continue campaigning today, the men's tournament will rely a good deal on the continued success of bright prospects such as Haas and Arazi.

Thirty-five minutes of Agassi yesterday was less than the spectators had hoped for, though few would disagree that the personable Haas thoroughly deserved a victory that will make a mark in Germany.

Agassi had won their only previous match, earlier this year on a concrete court in the finals of an ATP Tour event in Scottsdale, Arizona, 6-2, 6-1. While the even bounce of the ball on the American courts suit Agassi's style best, he would have expected to have made more of a No 13 seeding granted by the All England Club.

A first-round win against the Spaniard Alejandro Calatrava in straight sets may have eased Agassi into the tournament, but he required much more to overcome a player of Haas's quality, and was unable to build on his first-set lead.

Haas put that experience, plus what he learned while losing to Agassi in Arizona, to good use. "Once you start playing someone more often, you notice things they don't like and use that to your advantage," he said. "This is a very special win for me. I can say I beat the former No 1 who won a couple of Grand Slams."

The strangest aspect of Haas's return yesterday concerned his comments about Wimbledon. "I never really liked the tournament so much, because it's hectic," he said. "But once you go out there you change your mind totally."

"I didn't expect the stadium to be so special, but it is. You think about how all the great people have won and held the trophy. I can see why people say it is such a great tournament."

While it would be a mistake to overestimate Arazi's 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 win against Moya, chiefly because the Spaniard was not expecting great deeds from himself after winning the French title a couple of weeks ago, the crowd loved the Moroccan's fluent style.

It reminded them, perhaps, of another artistic left-hander of the courts, the Frenchman Henri Leconte. Arazi, who has lived in France since he was a child, brings similar nonchalance to the game, often smiling to himself at how easy it is for him to make even the most

difficult shots. Like Leconte, Arazi does not always string enough points together to win matches, but on afternoons such as yesterday his skills are a delight to watch.

It was encouraging, perhaps, that Arazi was not as impressed with his performance as the spectators who rose to him as he left the court. "It was not such a good match for me," he said. "In the beginning, Moya was playing better than me, but after the rain he started to make a lot of mistakes."

Complacency might prove to be the undoing of Martina Hingis. The youngest Wimbledon champion of the century was far from dominant in advancing to the third round yesterday, looking dismally at times, as if wondering how her Russian opponent, Elena Makarova, had the effrontery to make a serious challenge. Although winning the rain-interrupted match, 7-6, 6-4, after an hour and 23 minutes, Hingis agreed that she had made the match difficult for herself by underestimating her opponent. "I was too loose," she said.



Chris Wilkinson concentrates and bends for a low forehand volley as he does his India rubber man act to rub out Marc Rosset in straight sets in another of his Wimbledon upsets yesterday

Robert Hallam

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Wilkinson's sword slays the baby-eating monster

BY RICHARD EDMONDSON

THERE WERE babies around Court No 6 yesterday and they were screaming. It was just like the McEnroe days.

For a match between a new all-American boy and a seasoned Zimbabwean there was unusual interest. But then the winner of this contest would go on to a far grander coliseum and an encounter in the third round with the prince of this parish, Tim Henman.

This was blond v Black, streaked blond at that in the hair of Jan-Michael Gambill of the United States. He is 21, 6ft 2in and possessed of the look and physique of someone who should be crashing into California surf. He is also named after the actor Jan-Michael Vincent, which just shows that his mother has tastes for other than Jean-Luc Godard's work.

In the other corner was the wiry Byron Black, fighting out of Harare, and at 30 next year, a veritable Methuselah of the circuit.

The stats suggested that Blackie should win. He has been the 22nd-best player in the world, even if he is now down at 34. The boy from Spokane, Washington, is at 60 in the charts and rising. He is meant to be America's great new hope, which, in expectancy terms, is worth an anvil in each sock.

Both are predominantly baseliners and both predominantly two-handed on either wing. This meant that during the long rallies yesterday it seemed as if our players had been the victim of a prankster with a pot of glue in the locker room.

The boys have already endured two close matches this year, which means Black has got used to playing the fair-ground duck. Gambill has a big first serve, a big second serve and, almost inevitably, a big double-fault count.

Black's cause may have been aided by his opponent's fatigue. Gambill had needed three days, five sets and a great deal of nervous energy to overcome Sjeng Schalken in the

first round and, in the end, that was too much. He departed 7-5, 6-4, 7-5.

There were those hoping that tiredness would have a similar effect on events at Court No 1. This was where Chris Wilkinson, of Southampton and Blighty, was taking on the garrulous Swiss, Marc Rosset.

Rosset had finished his first-round match only at 8.00pm the previous night with a five-setter. An evening shift behind the bar at the Pitcher & Piano in Wimbledon village might have done the trick followed by a morning paper round.

It might also have been an idea to return to the pre-1975 days and make the players stand at the change-overs. But Rosset really did need his sit-downs as he brought into this game a nagging back injury.

While Rusedski's blunderbuss and the rapier Henman have been prominent at recent Wimbledons, there have also been good moments for the Wilkinson sword. A ranking of 114 may be the highest he has ever achieved, but Wilkinson has always operated in flurries and they tend to come in SW19.

He has reached the third round in 1993, 1994 and 1995.

"It's nice for me [at Wimbledon] because I can stay at home and I know what to expect now," he said after his first victory. "It's very easy for me to get up for it."

Rosset was the only Swiss gold medallist at the Barcelona Olympics and has finished in the world top 35 for each of the last six years. The credentials looked overpoweringly in his favour; as did the differences between the two combatants on court. Marc Rosset would look like a Smurf if it wasn't for the fact he is 6ft 7in tall. He

may be the only tennis player to have won a gold medal without ever having won a game.

Wilkinson was hardly a terrifying vision at his side. He had co-ordinating white legs to go with his outfit, limbs about as chunky as cotton thread.

The match opened like a contest between a fly and a swatter, and while Wilkinson looked as if he might be able to buzz around and survive for a while, it seemed he could never win. Rosset swaggered like a man who had just eaten a couple of babies for a snack before he came out and almost put one smash through the canvas.

The lumbering, though soon became less significant than Rosset's humbug. The giant became as manoeuvrable as the beamstork and Wilkinson started winning games. And then he started winning sets.

He won the first set 6-4, the second by the same margin, and, when a crosscourt forehand flashed past Rosset in the third-set tie-break, the match itself. The swatter had been snapped.

MPs work overtime to ratify mine ban
LAND-MINES



No hiding place for Karen Cross in defeat to Tamarine Tanasugarn Robert Hallam

Court circular

DEEDS OF THE SEEDS



YESTERDAY'S STATS

8,500 The number of pounds one punter has bet on Sampras and Hingis to win the singles.

330 The number of pounds collected for charity from Wednesday's resold tickets.

LATEST ODDS

Men's singles: Ev Sampras; 1-5 Sampras v Enqvist 100-30; 7-1 Krajicek; 12-1 Ivanisevic; 11-8 Grosjean v Mantilla 8-15; Rafer; 14-1 Bjorkman; 16-1 Korda; Philippoussis; Women's singles: 5-6 Hingis; 5-1 Graf; 7-1 Seles; Novotna

(Odds supplied by Ladbrokes)

TODAY'S WEATHER

Chance of showers.
Maximum temperature 19C (68F)

**IT'S ALL ABOUT BALANCE,
PRECISION AND MOVEMENT.**

ROLEX

Official Timekeeper to the Championships, Wimbledon

Child deaths

Ivanisevic is on the ball

THE CROATIAN Goran Ivanisevic is thrilled his tennis is peaking at the same time as his footballing compatriots have hit form in the World Cup.

"I practiced last year with the team in Split and I love football," said the lanky big server who contemplated football as a career before opting for tennis.

He also loved taking a gentle dig at the English football team - "They are really playing bad" - at his post-match press conference.

The fresh-faced Swiss girl Patty Schnyder, the 13th seed, sat proudly in the post-match press conference room ready to bare her soul to reporters. But it was a lonely wait, prompting the Wimbledon announcer to bark out: "There is nobody in the interview room. Where are the Swiss Press?"

Within minutes, Schnyder was all smiles. The press posse duly arrived and she shook hands with each reporter to welcome them.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

MEN'S SINGLES

Holder: Pete Sampras (United States) 1 KINGIS Beat Makarova of Russia in R2 2 RIOS Defeated in first round by Spain's Casper 3 KORDA Easy win over Ankai. Injury forces him out in R2 4 PUSSOVSKY 5 MOYA Lost to Arash in R2 6 RAFTER Beaten in four sets by Ivanisevic in first round 7 KRAJICEK 8 CORTEZ 9 MARTINEZ 10 COOPER 11 KRISTENSEN 12 VASARIS 13 HINDS 14 MEDVEDEV 15 KOUCERA 16 MANTILLA 17 TESTUZI 18 TURZAKOV 19 VELICKOVIC 20 VELICKOVIC 21 VELICKOVIC 22 VELICKOVIC 23 VELICKOVIC 24 VELICKOVIC 25 VELICKOVIC 26 VELICKOVIC 27 VELICKOVIC 28 VELICKOVIC 29 VELICKOVIC 30 VELICKOVIC 31 VELICKOVIC 32 VELICKOVIC 33 VELICKOVIC 34 VELICKOVIC 35 VELICKOVIC 36 VELICKOVIC 37 VELICKOVIC 38 VELICKOVIC 39 VELICKOVIC 40 VELICKOVIC 41 VELICKOVIC 42 VELICKOVIC 43 VELICKOVIC 44 VELICKOVIC 45 VELICKOVIC 46 VELICKOVIC 47 VELICKOVIC 48 VELICKOVIC 49 VELICKOVIC 50 VELICKOVIC 51 VELICKOVIC 52 VELICKOVIC 53 VELICKOVIC 54 VELICKOVIC 55 VELICKOVIC 56 VELICKOVIC 57 VELICKOVIC 58 VELICKOVIC 59 VELICKOVIC 60 VELICKOVIC 61 VELICKOVIC 62 VELICKOVIC 63 VELICKOVIC 64 VELICKOVIC 65 VELICKOVIC 66 VELICKOVIC 67 VELICKOVIC 68 VELICKOVIC 69 VELICKOVIC 70 VELICKOVIC 71 VELICKOVIC 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Time to exploit the mobility of Beckham

ENGLAND ARE backed up against a wall after the Romania defeat but that is when you tend to see the best of us and I am only expecting a positive reaction from tonight's game with Colombia in Lens and a result to take us through into the second round.

In Mexico in 1986, we faced a similar situation going into our last group game – after a defeat and a draw to Portugal and Morocco respectively, spirits were low but a draw in the final group fixture against Poland would have proved sufficient to send us through. As things turned out Gary Lineker scored a hat-trick inside 34 minutes and qualification was never in doubt.

I was worried about the threat from the Romanians before Monday's game and, unfortunately,



RAY WILKINS

those fears were borne out. If you allow players like the midfielder Gheorghe Hagi a split second they will punish you and, in Dan Petrescu, they possess one of the best finishers in the Premiership despite the fact that he is a defender

Petrescu is ice cool; he just does not miss the target.

It is vitally important when you are playing a side who likes to keep the ball that you don't allow them to get in behind you. Colombia will be more to our liking because, although they also try to keep possession, they like to pass it around in front of you and that gives you time to get the covering players back.

Even though a draw will be enough to take England into the knock-out phase, I think we will be going all out to win the game. It is just not in the English psyche to play for a draw.

Colombia have some good quality individuals but as a collective unit they have been disappointing so far. Their game with Tunisia was abysmal, at least from a coach's

point of view, because the defending was so poor. It was a great contest for the neutral because it could have ended up 6-5, and that was just at half-time!

Carlos Valderrama is a world-class talent but, at 36, he may be just too old. He can play people in but he no longer bothers to defend. In fact, for defensive midfield duties, they just seem to leave Harold Lozano on his own and tell him to get on with it.

They have two monsters at the back, Jorge Bermudez and Ever Palacios who ought to be good at getting the ball away, but it doesn't matter whether you are fit or fit zin, if you go to sleep at the back and are caught ball-watching you will get punished. With England's ability on set-pieces we can definitely take advantage.

The showing of the South American sides so far in this tournament has been good, with Brazil and Argentina justifying their reputations among the favourites to win the World Cup and Chile and Paraguay also emerging into the second phase. However, I wouldn't put Colombia in the same class as

fenders will be more comfortable knowing he is not going to be around.

For all Asprilla's attributes he seems to have a strange mentality and last week's bust-up with the coach was not the first time there has been an upset involving him. When he apologised and pleaded to be allowed back into the camp that made it difficult for the coach, but you can't have a situation where one individual is disrupting the atmosphere no matter how important that player is.

I am certain Michael Owen will start the game because when he came on the other night his hunger and readiness for the challenge was obvious. He has genuine pace and that will frighten the Colombians yet I do feel for Teddy Sheringham and also for Darren Anderton because

it has been hard for them with the public clamour to include both Owen and David Beckham.

If we can deliver more quality crosses into the box then either Alan Shearer can get on the end of things or Michael can seize on the knock-downs. That was another thing that really impressed me about the Romanians, they were very good at preventing the ball from arriving into the box and therefore, much of the supply in Shearer was neutralised.

I don't think we should risk Owen. If there is any chance that an injured ankle will go again and possibly put him out of the rest of the tournament, in my case, it will be no bad thing to involve Beckham from the start, he adds creativity to the midfield and gives us more mobility.

Referees' displays improve says Fifa

FIFA YESTERDAY awarded a green card to World Cup referees, describing the standard of officiating in France as "very high" and a distinct improvement on the last finals in 1994.

David Will, the chairman of the referees' committee of world football's governing body, said that Fifa has been delighted with the referees and linesmen in France. "The overall standard is very high, higher than it was in the USA in 1994, there is no doubt about that," he said.

"Of course there have been some mistakes," Will added. "But I would say there were only three refereeing performances with which we were not satisfied." He would not reveal which ones they were.

Will reiterated Fifa's policy that video technology would not be used in the foreseeable future to help referees make decisions. "I do not want to create a situation where the referee is no more than a secretary on the field of play for a supervisor sitting in the stand in front of a batch of TV monitors," he said.

Two international careers came to an end on Wednesday night. The veteran Spanish goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta and the Bulgarian coach, Hristo Bonev, both announced their respective resignations following Spain's 6-1 victory over Bulgaria in Lens, after which both countries were eliminated.

Bonev whose team went home with a single point and a single goal, said: "I can't go on in charge after the way the team has played in this World Cup. I have principles." Zubizarreta, who has retired from playing, is expected to become an assistant coach to the Spanish national team.

Brown wants England to be wide boys

CRAIG BROWN, the Scotland coach, is backing England to beat Colombia tonight and claim the second-round place which eluded his own team – provided they exploit their aerial power and the width of the pitch.

On returning from the United States last month, after Scotland drew 2-2 with Colombia in a friendly, Brown was convinced England would be too strong for the South Americans. The evidence provided by Group G, in which both teams have beaten Tunisia but lost to Romania, has done nothing to change his mind.

"I don't think Colombia are the force they were even four years ago," said Brown, who will be in Marseilles for tomorrow's game between Italy and Norway as a radio summariser. "They have some good individuals but I don't expect them to cause England too many problems. We were very disappointed not to have beaten them."

"They play a very distinctive system which is basically 1-3-2-2-2 with no width to speak of. If England pick [Steve] McManaman against them they could well steamroll them. We went out determined to use the flanks and did it very successfully."

"Width and heading power are the keys for England. Colombia aren't the biggest of

teams – there's only really [Freddy] Rincon, [Jorge] Bermudez and [Harold] Lozano who you would call tall. So they could struggle at set pieces against Alan Shearer and Tony Adams."

"A lot of their play is very much off the cuff. It's hard to see a real structure there, or much evidence that things have been worked on. For instance, I expected their coach [Hernan] Dario Gomez to change things around in the second half in New York to stop us getting by them on the wings, but he didn't."

Carlos Valderrama remains Colombia's most notable performer, although as much for his incandescent Afro as for his influence as a playmaker. "I don't want to knock him but I'll put it this way," Brown said. "A few years ago we would have man-marked him tightly. I wouldn't do it now because it would be a waste of a player."

"He's still the linchpin, he can hit a sweet pass and he's always clever at free kicks and corners. But we usually pick out the chief in the other team and try to negate him. I don't see Valderrama in those terms."



Carlos Valderrama, Colombia's veteran playmaker, leaves the pitch after training in Lens yesterday

AP

United move to keep Kidd from Everton

BY ALAN NIXON

MANCHESTER UNITED are offering Brian Kidd a pay rise and a chance of becoming the next manager to stop him moving to Everton. Kidd has been in negotiations with United's pic for the past few days about the threat of leaving to become Howard Kendall's replacement.

Everton have already made an approach to United for Kidd, Alex Ferguson's assistant manager, and the Old Trafford club have been talking to Kidd about an improved contract and, above all, his long-term future.

Ferguson has admitted he will retire in the next few years and Kidd is concerned that Bryan Robson, the former United captain and current manager of Middlesbrough, is the favoured candidate to replace

him. However, Kidd may emerge from the negotiations with that guarantee in his new deal or some form of assurance that his position would be safe in a new regime.

Everton are offering Kidd the chance to become his own man immediately, a prospect that also interests him.

Kidd is Everton's first choice to take over from Kendall, who was sacked yesterday after three weeks of waiting for the news to be delivered by the Goodison chairman, Peter Johnson. Martin O'Neill was the favourite for the job until he chose to stay at Leicester. O'Neill would not quit for Everton while Kendall was still in a job and now the opportunity may have passed although he could yet re-emerge as the leading candidate if Kidd stays at United.

Johnson dismissed Kendall before last night's board meeting, the minutes for which revealed the decision had been made three weeks ago.

Since then Johnson has been trying to find a replacement from his Jersey base and

from his yacht in the south of France.

Yet Everton were yesterday maintaining that Kendall's third spell at the club was ended by mutual consent. Kendall said: "I leave with regrets but I know our supporters will understand this club deserves success."

Johnson said: "It saddens me because Howard is a man of the highest integrity and I'm bitterly disappointed that his third term in office did not end on a successful note."

Steve Bruce's move to become Sheffield United's new player-manager has hit a stumbling block over the amount of compensation Birmingham City would receive for their captain. Birmingham will free Bruce if he goes into management, but want a fee for him if he is to continue playing. United are reluctant to pay for the transfer as well as his wages.

Brian McClair, a former team-mate of Bruce at Manchester United, was on the move yesterday as he confirmed he is returning to

Motherwell, the club where he started his senior career. The 34-year-old former Scotland international has signed a three-year deal at Fir Park.

Mickey Adams is quitting as manager of Brentford to become a coach at First Division Huddersfield Town. Adams is unhappy at Brentford, where his position has been undermined with the arrival of Ray Lewington from Crystal Palace. Adams, squeezed out of Fulham, will team up with Peter Jackson and Terry Yorath.

Brentford, meanwhile, confirmed Ron Noades as their new chairman. Noades was the Crystal Palace chairman before Mark Goldberg's £22m takeover at Selhurst Park.

Tony Swansland has stepped down as Brentford chairman, but will remain on the board.

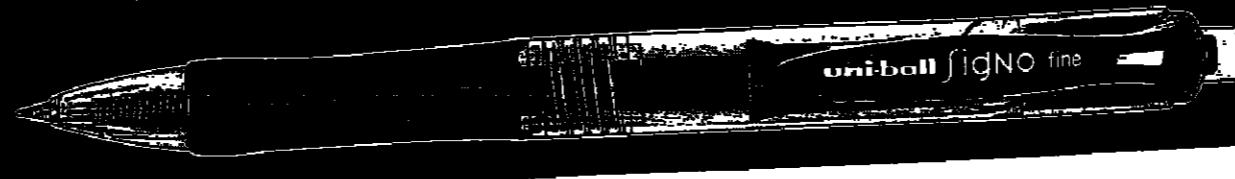
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Romania keen to maintain impetus

ROMANIA ARE out to make sure of topping Group G today, but their coach, Anghel Iordanescu, will ring the changes in the side to meet a spirited Tunisia at the Stade de France.

The Africans are already eliminated and have fired their coach, but a classy 2-1 victory against England last Monday announced Romania as a force to be reckoned with and ensured they would qualify for the second round.

It also meant they could expect to secure themselves a second-round match against Croatia rather than the more fancied Argentines if the remaining games in Group H went to plan.

"I prefer Croatia but at this level no games are easy, not for any team," Romania's coach, Anghel Iordanescu, said. But it will be a changed side that faces the Tunisians in St Denis.

"I have to save the players already booked in order to field the strongest team against

Croatia or Argentina in the second round," Iordanescu said yesterday.

The key defenders Gheorghe Popescu, Dan Petrescu and Liviu Ciobanu were booked in the previous group matches and a second second bookable offence against Tunisia would automatically ban them from second-round match. "I'll make substantial changes in the defence line for the match against Tunisia, but our team will still play to win," Iordanescu said.

The wing-back Tibor Selymes, who has been out of action with a leg injury, looks in line for a call-up. "If the doctor gives me a last-minute green light for him, Selymes will play again for us," Iordanescu said.

The central defender Anton Dobos is expected to play as is the midfielder Ilie Dumitrescu, who sparred four years ago in United States when he scored twice to help defeat Argentina in the second round.

The coach is keen to let

Romania's Dan Petrescu (left) and keeper Bogdan Stelu train at the Stade de France yesterday

AFP

some players rest, including the captain, Gheorghe Hagi, though he may play 45 minutes. "Hagi looked tired at the end of the last match," Iordanescu said. "There is nothing unusual in that as he played more than 50 matches with his club Galatasaray."

Hagi and his midfield teammate Dorinel Munteanu were

also booked once during the matches against Colombia and England. The midfielder Ovidiu Stanga is out of action with serious ligament problems and will miss the rest of the tournament.

Romania have defied the critics – especially at home – who said they relied too much on an ageing generation that

peaked at the 1994 World Cup, when they reached the quarter-finals. Valencia's young striker Adrian Ilie has been one of the revelations of the tournament – and Hagi feels the team is better than the 1994 side.

The best Tunisia can hope for is to end a run of four World Cup matches without scoring dating back to their last finals

appearance in 1978. They can also try to shrug off the upheaval of losing their Polish coach, Henryk Kasperczak, since the last game and improve on two performances that who thought they were capable of showing the attacking zest of their neighbours, Morocco.

IT IS truly amazing that we have reached the midway point of the tournament – 16 days gone, 44 games played – and only now has word come through as to who Bangkok's monks are tipping for the World Cup. A poll of 937 monks living in the Thai capital found, surprise, surprise, that 46 per cent backed Brazil with 29 per cent favouring England.

NET SURFERS have discovered the World Cup in a big way with well over 450 million hits registered on the official site (www.France98.com) since the tournament kicked off. Monday 15 June – the day of England v Tunisia – was the most popular day so far with 55 million hits, beating the previous record of 56 million in one day, recorded by the official website for the Winter Olympics in Nagano.

Compiled by Trevor Haylett

QUOTES OF THE DAY

"This is for the whole of South America. Many people are starving there. The economic and financial situation is terrible, but people at least have football to take their minds off things." Paraguay's goalkeeper Jose Luis Chilavert, whose side have reached the second round.

"The players stopped fighting. They looked completely lost." Bulgaria's departing coach, Hristo Bonev.

Defeat is not so bad, it's hope that is intolerable

THE SMALL northern town of Lens is as tense and wound-up as a nervous bomb-defuser tackling a highly booby-trapped unexploded bomb, timed to go off tonight.

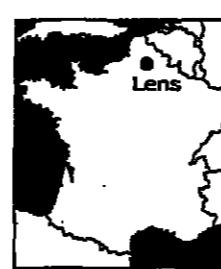
I swear all I did was send back the *café au lait* in Le Michelin on the main street – "Monsieur, this milk is cold. You cannot make a decent *café au lait* with cold milk" – and within 10 seconds (no, I am not making this up), five bus-loads of policemen in full riot gear pulled up outside and plied out. Someone had pressed the panic button. I slipped away in all the confusion and doubled back later to find harmonious handshaking and photos being taken.

A British brass band – curiously garbed in gaucho gear but bearing Union Jacks – strikes up the *Match of the Day* theme tune on the main square in front of the Hôtel de Ville. But, in truth, there is a sombreness in Lens which has nothing to do with the slag piles on the edge of town. Over at Le Sporting bar, the Tammy is belting out Frank Sinatra's *My Way*, but the only line that strikes a chord with the listless fans sitting about at the tables is, "Regrets, I've had a few". "Regrets. Regrets. You can say that again!" pipes up one, miserably.

The ruthless laws of supply and demand are starting to bite. While the price of tickets has been ratcheted up to £250 each, most of the would-be buyers are running low on cash and



ANDY
MARTIN
AT LARGE
IN FRANCE



optimism. "I've only got a hundred left," says one. "I'm nearly cleaned out already."

Meanwhile, at the other end of the spectrum, a few tables away, a tout is cracking a deal over his mobile for £3,000 (for what precisely I don't like to ask). "It's a nightmare," says another. He is talking about the camping ground where he has set up miles out of town, but he might as well be referring to the semi-apocalyptic mood prevailing here.

Years ago, as I was revising for my university exams and moaning my lot, Alf – the psychologist I shared a house with – used to go about saying, "Enjoy the pain". It annoyed the hell out of me at the time, so I decided not to bother with that line where discontented fans were concerned. But there is no question that a degree of masochistic pleasure in suffering has set in over here.

The great thing about the kind of pain induced by a major trauma (let's say, for the sake of example, a World Cup de-

taker tries to make the keeper go one way so that he can blast the ball into the opposite corner. Equally, the goalie often tries to make the penalty-taker think he is going right (let's say), so that the ball will go left (which is the way, in reality, he was planning to jump all along). The wrong-footing bet plays the same sort of cunning game with the larger forces of fate.

Raffaele, who makes coffee into an art form in my favourite bar, is an old hand at this trick. If he wants Italy to win, he will go out and place a bet on the opposition. Since he invariably loses, the chances are that Italy will win, and if they don't he has the certain consolation of collecting his winnings.

Such is the inverse prayer. If you want something to happen, pray for the exact opposite. Something like this paradoxical strategy is even now being tried out by downbeat and desperate England fans gearing up for the big one. Expect the worst, actively embrace it, live it, and all may yet be well.

THE GLOBAL GAME

THE WORLD CUP AROUND THE WORLD

"THE TEAM did its homework late, overwhelmed for two weeks by a stifling atmosphere. No one is more responsible for the catastrophe than Clemente, an abusive coach, embroiled in a destructive process that eventually contaminated the players. He created problems where there weren't any, refused to accept the reality of his mistakes, stuck obstinately into unpleasant and artificial polemics and didn't understand that the World Cup is a

"ON SUNDAY in Lens the France team of Djorkaeff, Desailly and Barthez will meet Paraguay in the second round. In Sweden 40 years ago the France team of Kopa, Fontaine and Piantoni put seven goals past the "Albirroja" (the red and whites) in a first-round match which promised much and led eventually to an excellent third place in the tournament. This time France are the clear favourites." *Le Monde* on the host nation.

"JAVIER CLEMENTE's squad has been a corpse for 10 days and was revived just in time to attend its own burial. For the

Spaniards it's the end of an adventure, and it must also be the end of a management style, the end of an epoch. Spain achieved a historic score but, you know, a miserable 1-0 would almost have been better. It would not have left such a foul taste in the mouth." *El Mundo* tells Spain's coach where to go.

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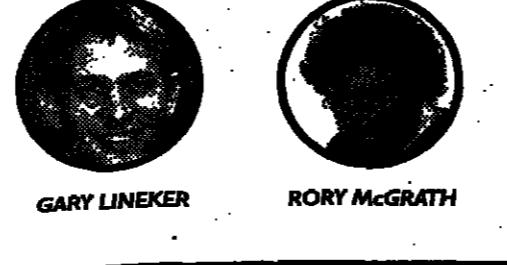
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VALDERRAMA LIES IN WAIT P28 • WILKINSON WOOS WIMBLEDON P24

Owen ready to take his chance



Michael Owen, England's teenage striker, is a lone figure as the evening light casts long shadows on the Stade Félix Bollaert turf in Lens yesterday

David Ashdown

By GLENN MOORE
Football Correspondent

AFTER 48 matches in eight largely predictable groups the real World Cup starts tomorrow. Fifteen teams, including every serious contender except Spain, have qualified for the knockout stages. Tonight in the Stade Félix Bollaert in Lens, England seek to take the last place.

A point against Colombia will be enough to earn England a second-round tie against Argentina or Croatia in St Etienne on Tuesday. It ought to be within England's grasp to do so, but they will have to produce a better performance than has become the norm.

Michael Owen seems certain to start, which should give England more urgency and potency in attack. However, Teddy Sheringham's consequent absence does change the balance of the side and ought to provoke changes in midfield. If David Batty and Paul Ince both play there is a danger that the forward pair will become isolated and the rest of the team tempted into playing long balls over the top for Owen

to chase. This happened when Alan Shearer and Owen started together against Switzerland in March. There will also be a reduction in creativity.

The solution is to drop Batty and play David Beckham, but Glenn Hoddle usually takes the defensive option under pressure and, since only a draw is required, the England coach is likely to want both midfield anchors in place. However, the decision may be taken for him by the state of Ince's ankle. He is still undergoing intensive treatment and, even if he starts, may not finish. Should he prove unfit Beckham will surely play, although Hoddle may be tempted to use the prosaic but reliable Rob Lee.

The defence is likely to be unchanged, particularly as Gareth Southgate has failed to recover from his ankle injury. This despite the carelessness of Toulouse and a groundswell of support for a reversion to the more familiar flat back-four. A change in formation is unlikely because Hoddle is convinced his system is the best. A change in personnel is also unlikely, because

the most negligent player on Monday against Romania is also the most secure: Graeme Le Saux, as the only left-footed player in the squad, is almost guaranteed his starting place.

Hoddle has looked tense and tired since the defeat to Romania and his mood cannot have been helped by news that the bookies are taking bets on the identity of his replacement. John Gorman, his assistant and a close friend for more than 20 years, said Hoddle remained "calm and confident". Gorman added: "He believes we will qualify just as he did after we lost at home to Italy. He's not arrogant; he listens to other people, but he is his own

man. His self-belief comes from deep within and it is growing."

Worryingly for Hoddle, Colombia have similar strengths to Romania. They have plenty of players with World Cup experience, are technically gifted, possess an aging but still world-class playmaker and have quick-footed forwards.

The key player remains Carlos Valderrama, who has the ability to damage England in the same way as Romania's Gheorghe Hagi did in Toulouse. England will need to get much closer to Valderrama than they did Hagi. In attack, Colombia have a choice between Victor Aristizabal, who came into the tournament

under a death threat, Anthony De Avila, who dedicated the goal that earned Colombia's qualification to two jailed drug barons, Adolfo Valencia and Lender Preciado, who came on and scored the winner against Tunisia. There is also the long-legged Freddy Rincón, once of Real Madrid.

Colombia operate a flat back four, which may be more susceptible to Owen than either Romania or Tunisia, who both played with a sweeper. The full-backs press forward, which could cause problems for an England side that has appeared vulnerable on the flanks. However, the first-choice left-back,

Jose Santa, is suspended. They are also missing the mercurial former Newcastle United forward, Faustino Asprilla, after he was thrown out of the squad last week. Asprilla's departure may, however, have lifted spirits in the Colombia camp.

England last played Colombia at Wembley in the build-up to Euro 96. Although the match was drawn, the hosts were occasionally embarrassed by the South Americans' ability to pass the ball around them.

"It obviously won't be a walkover and although Asprilla won't be playing, we've plenty of other good players," Sol Campbell said. "We found against Romania that if you give people space they will punish you, so we will have to watch that."

England were encouraged by the number of chances Tunisia created against Colombia and would expect to do the same. With finishers of the quality of Owen and Shearer in the team, England ought to be capable of scoring once. And that ought to be enough to secure the point they crave.

ENGLAND (3-5-2) probable: Seaman; G Neville, Adams, Campbell, Anderson, Beckford or Irick, Scholes, Batty, Le Saux, Owen, Shearer.

THREE LIONS VERSUS SOUTH AMERICA

England's World Cup record against South American countries

1950 BRAZIL

Group phase
England
Mortensen, Mannion
Coffey

1954 SWITZERLAND

Quarter-finals
England
Loftus, Flannery
Uruguay
Borges, Varela,
Schiffatto, Ambros

1958 SWEDEN

Group phase
England
Brazil

1962 CHILE

Group phase
England
Flowers, pen, Charlton, Greaves
Argentina
Sanfilippo
England
Hitchens
Brazil
Garrincha 2, Vava

1966 ENGLAND

Group phase
England
Uruguay
England
R Charlton, Hunt
Mexico

Quarter-finals

England
Hurst
Argentina

1970 MEXICO

Group phase
England
Brazil
Jairzinho

1986 MEXICO

Second round
England
Lineker 2, Beardsley
Paraguay
Quarter-finals
England
Lineker
Argentina
Maradona 2
Total P W D L F A
11 5 2 4 15 31

GROUP G PERMUTATIONS

The group winners meet the runners-up from Group H and the second-placed team from the Group H winners, both matches to be played on Tuesday. Qualification decided by (in order): points, goal difference, number of goals scored, outcome of encounter between the two sides, drawing of lots.
1 England beat Colombia; Romania beat Tunisia; Romania win group and England are runners-up.
2 England beat Colombia; Romania draw with England; Romania win group and England are runners-up.
3 England beat Colombia; Tunisia beat Romania; Romania win group and England are runners-up.
4 England draw with Colombia; Romania beat Tunisia; Romania win group and England are runners-up.
5 England draw with Colombia; Romania draw with Tunisia; Romania win group and England are runners-up.
6 England draw with Colombia; Tunisia beat Romania; Romania win group and England are runners-up.
7 Colombia beat England; Romania beat

Tunisia; Romania win group and Colombia are runners-up.

8 Colombia beat England; Romania draw with Tunisia; Romania win group and Colombia are runners-up.

9 Colombia beat England; Tunisia beat Romania; Romania win group and England are runners-up.

10 Colombia beat England; Romania draw with Tunisia; Colombia win group and England are runners-up.

11 Colombia beat England; Romania draw with Tunisia; Colombia win group and England are runners-up.

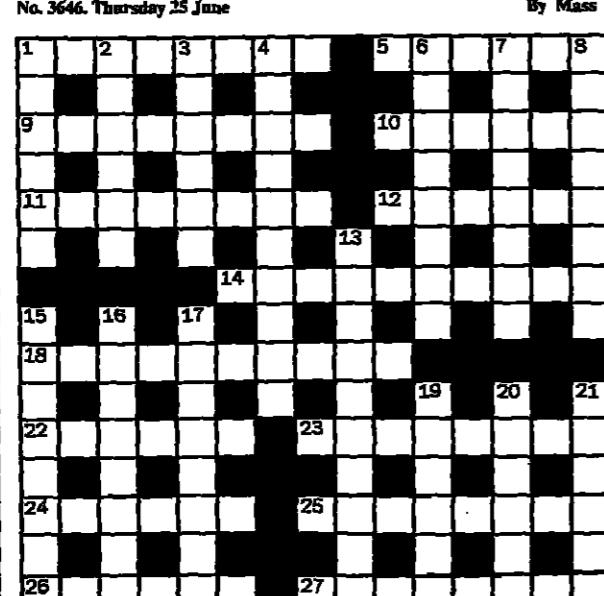
12 Colombia beat England; Romania draw with Colombia; Colombia win group and England are runners-up.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3646, Thursday 25 June

By Mass

Wednesday's solution



- ACROSS**
- Dexterity gets learner fired. Complaint must follow (8)
 - Slight old fellow has to make do (6)
 - Leak caused by severe conditions (8)
 - Crowds calling for Member in the House? (6)
 - Washes 100 glasses audibly (8)
 - One to watch? Somebody without note? (6)
 - Looking bright, with lens capturing one cloud (10)
 - Quaint and virtually dated, maybe (10)
 - Bear plate back? (6)
 - Rejected complete nonsense about Italian pancake (8)
 - Correct extremities about State (6)
 - Increasingly sober on a more regular basis (8)
 - Prepares grilled trout on Sunday (6)
 - A figure produced by writer with epithet added (8)
 - Turn South on boat (6)
 - One following suit - firm feature of bridge (6)
 - Edging forward, fall in drink (6)
 - Scenarios: rising mountain in wild scenery (10)
 - Help with cuts, finding tree rigid (5,3)
 - Spain! Great! I'm off to settle abroad (8)
 - Woman's exacting part (8)
 - Item for putting in hock (4,6)
 - A bird (domesticated) with a comb (8)
 - Grinding pace gets tail-enders in marathon event (8)
 - Queen's in smoother blue (8)
 - Sound tight (6)
 - Dashing unknown's entered the dance (6)
 - Very dry? Slip up into bar (6)

Players hoping to give pace a chance

With his speed, ability and belief, the stage is now set for the arrival of Michael Owen. By Glenn Moore

McManaman added: "He reads the game well, has good control and he believes if he gets a chance he'll score. Goalscorers are like that. On Monday he came on and changed the game. He wants to score goals and if you put ball in box he'll be there."

"He's very relaxed with a great temperament. I've every confidence in him if he plays. Nothing fazes him, he's been well brought up by his family and by the people at Liverpool. If he plays against Colombia I have every confidence in him."

Owen is expected to start in Lens tonight and Sol Campbell, with a defender's perspective, explained why. "All the best strikers here have some kind of pace and his pace would frighten anyone. His size is also an asset. Players who are small and quick are often harder to deal with than ones who are big and quick."

"By itself, however, pace is not enough, you have to have football sense too. He's very intelligent with his runs. If you give him half a chance he'll go by you."

"He's a confident young lad but not too confident. He's not afraid to voice his opinion but he accepts what the coaches have to say. He'll have a laugh and joke with the lads and is very much part of everything."

More so than McManaman whose apparent absence even from consideration for selection has irked the Liverpool manager Roy Evans. "McCa appears to have become England's forgotten man," said Evans yesterday. "I just can't believe he isn't getting a mention given how dangerous he is with the ball at his feet running at people. I'm not trying to tell Glenn Hoddle who to pick but some of the stuff he produced for us last season was outstanding."

The player himself is relatively phlegmatic. "It's frustrating, especially when we were getting beat, but I'm totally committed to the lads," he said. McManaman's prospects should be helped by Owen's emergence. As Campbell said: "At Liverpool the midfield are on his wavelength, they give him balls which make the most of his pace. If that isn't the case his runs may not be picked up."

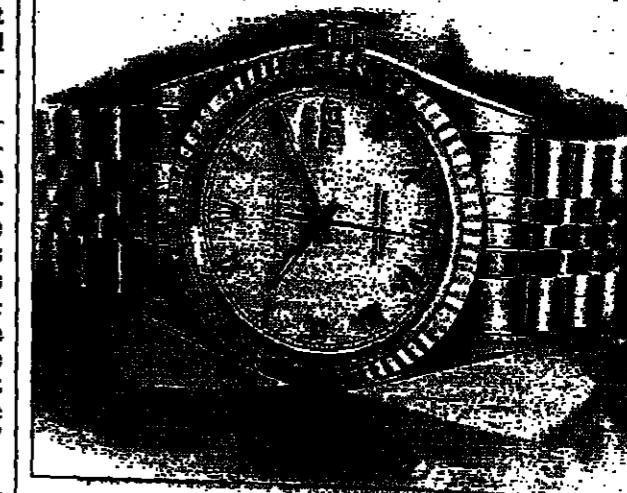
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FRIDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

Danger: women at work

BY SUZANNE MOORE

Do you want sex at work? That is not as straightforward a question as it might first appear. We live in a time when many of the key battles for female equality have moved out of the domestic sphere and into the workplace. How men and women treat each other at work is an increasing preoccupation. Do they promote each other? Exclude one another? Sexually harass each other? Millions of stereotypes about working women pour out of the media every single day. From the predatory female boss of *Disclosure* to doe-eyed Ally McBeal in the Channel Four series of the same name (both incidentally are male creations), they reflect our anxiety about the cultural shifts produced by a greater number of women than ever before entering the workforce.

An advert produced by Jockey which shows five gorgeous young women wearing power jackets on their top halves and only hosiery on their bottom halves has caused a stir in America because the women featured are not models. When these five women are not having their fantastic legs photographed they are in fact bankers and brokers on Wall Street. Are they doing a disservice to their sisters by posing in such a way, or are they simply having fun? Some women's rights organisations don't think that this is fun at all. "Women embroiled in sexual harassment situations don't have the luxury to joke about like this," says Gretchen Prizmark, the president of Women's Rights at Work. Well, that's true but many women who are not as young or as attractive as these women also don't have the luxury to mess about like this either. What are we going to do about it though? Whatever equal rights legislation can achieve can not change the reality that in terms of sexual appeal some women are always going to be more equal than others.

Contrast these leggy 'Bond Babes' with Julie Edgehill, a City dealer for a Dutch Bank in London against whom she has lost a claim for sexual discrimination. Edgehill, in her late thirties was made redundant though she had fifteen years experience. She complained of being ostracised because she was not one of the lads. Describing her isolation and the destruction of her confidence as the men turned their backs on her to talk about football, she said, "If I tried to give my point of view, it was sort of pooh-poohed".

Edgehill's experience isn't uncommon. Over the last few years we have seen a number of cases where women suffer institutionalised discrimination and harassment. The police force and the military have been notoriously bad at managing such cases resorting often to a line of defence which assumes that because the woman in question is a sexual being, it is her own fault and that a certain level of sexual banter is harmless.

There is even a line of thought which casts men as victims who can be hauled before an industrial tribunal just because some uptight woman has taken their silly jokes and harmless flirtation seriously. We are better educated about what sexual harassment actually means but we still find situations where powerful men defend their colleagues' behaviour when it is indefensible. If Andrew Neil at *The European* fails to fire Gerry Malone, who hit a female colleague after she refused his sexual advances, he will be sending

out a striking message about what he considers acceptable behaviour in the workplace to be.

Yet we are better it seems at drawing up clear guidelines about sexual harassment than we are about sexual discrimination.

Harassment is never subtle whereas discrimination often can be. Many women complain of their exclusion from the traditional playing fields and clubs where key decisions and appointments are often made. Yet certain facts have to be faced here. The utopian feminist ideal conjures up the workplace as neutral territory, as a sex-free zone. One wonders whether this is ever going to be likely or indeed desirable. Work is still the place where many people meet their partners, so not all sex at work constitutes sexual harassment. Even men who claim to be confused about the signals that women are sending out should know the difference between someone responding to their sexual interest and someone who hides every time they appear.

Ally McBeal has excited much interest because it is said that she actively blurs the signals. On one hand she is a successful lawyer in a thriving law firm, on the other she is neurotically vulnerable. One wonders how she wins any cases at all as most of her working life is involved in crisis management of her personal life. I cannot bear the slogan that advertises the series: "Single, successful, falling apart" as it implies that successful working women are inevitably unhappy beings who just need a good man to pull themselves together again. If the problem with most women is that they need a good seeing to, the problem with feminists or those like Ally, who hum a feminist tune without ever knowing the words, is that they need even more of a seeing to than the average woman. As reassuring as this may be to male viewers it is this, rather than Ally's short skirts, that women should worry about.

Yet what Ally McBeal highlights is simply that female sexuality is still seen as disruptive to the smooth running of the corporate world. Ally's problems stem from the fact that she has a sexual past. She appears trapped by her sexuality in a way that the male characters do not. "Get a life!" I find myself yelling at the TV. "One that doesn't involve every jerk you've ever slept with!" It is her psychological make-up that is holding her back rather than her ever moist lipstick. Would her difficulties disappear if her skirts were three inches longer? Hardly. She is, as she

The Jockey underwear ad that shocked America, and launched the Wall Street 'Bond Babes'

says, in that horrible Americanism deeply "conflicted". Aren't we all?

Would the 'Bond Babes' not be looked upon as sexually attractive women if their co-workers had never seen their legs? I don't think so somehow.

The idea then, that women's dress at work is somehow to blame for their problems is a red herring. Just as we understand rape is rape, no matter what the victim is wearing, so harassment is harassment whether the woman is in a trouser suit or a summer dress. This does not mean however that we can deny the reality that male corporate costume is fundamentally boring and that even female formal dress is criticised. Linda Grant, writing in *The Guardian*, comments that "Men conform at work, why do women

think they shouldn't have to?" Yet even women in sensible suits will attract attention. Nor does this argument take into account the liberality that women have felt in being able to dress how they want to. As fashion changes women expose far more of their bodies than ever before. Young women show their midriffs and legs not simply to gain male approval but because this is how they choose to look. Dress codes in every area of society have become more relaxed. Some feminists come on like old puritans if they think that covering up the female form will remove temptation from men and therefore make women's lives easier. This 'new Victorian' attitude casts women as temptresses and men as entirely stupid creatures unable to distinguish between un-

wanted sexual attention and mutual enjoyment. It also means that women have to disavow their sexuality if they are to be taken seriously. Yet as every woman knows, even if she is not dressed up in a French Maid's outfit, she will rarely be allowed to forget the fact that she is female. Equality will only be realised when hiring and firing is based as much on female whims as it is on the peculiar rituals of male bonding.

To demand then, that women should dress how they like and that this should not interfere with their treatment at work is to demand that we have it both ways. But as men have had it entirely their own way for some time now it is only reasonable. They will have to learn to adjust. If men want to strut about the office in skimpy t-shirts and shorts, that is fine by me. I will continue to respect them as professionals as long as they get the job done.

The creation of an artificially defined environment is not the answer. Let us not recast female sexuality and success as inherently problematic when so many of the problems are caused by male sexuality within a system that takes for granted male privilege and male power. These assumptions are really what is "falling apart". I see little wrong with the 'Bond Babes' or Ally McBeal's legs. It's what they do with their brains that matters.

But to find that in ten years time that the 'Bond Babes' are no longer players and that Ally McBeal doesn't have her own law firm would surely be far more shocking than a glimpse of stocking.

INSIDE

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THE SECRET'S out. Now that Geri Halliwell, better known as Spice, has been seen carrying a copy of M Scott Peck's *Further Along the Road Less Traveled* (*The Unending Journey Towards Spiritual Growth*), it has become widely known that those of us in life's fast lane invariably have our own special little book of spiritual guidance that we keep with us at all times.

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TERENCE BLACKER
discovers the perfect book to guide you on life's difficult journey

Each celebrity has their own favourite. George Michael refuses to leave home without a copy of Samuel Smiles's Victorian classic *Self-Help* in his back pocket. Alastair Campbell swears by *How to Win Friends and Influence People*. Glenn Hoddle prefers *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross: The Christian Footballer's Handbook*.

My own personal handbook - my emotional crutch, if you like - is a relatively obscure Buddhist text called *Zen and the Art of Archer* - a text which, for reasons that escape me, has recently been mailed to members of the Central Office Committee currently deliberating on who should be nominated as Conservative candidate for Mayor of London.

I'm not saying that the little pearls of advice to be found on every page of *Zen and the Art of Archer* will transform your life, merely that its quiet, profound wisdom has helped me through the various passages of my life.

Miles Kington returns next week.

WIN A VIP DAY OUT AT WIMBLEDON FOR LADIES QUARTER FINAL DAY

The Independent and Robinsons, the Official Soft Drink of Wimbledon, are offering readers the opportunity to attend this year's Wimbledon by giving you the chance to win a set of four exclusive hospitality tickets.

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The winner and three friends or family members will enjoy a great day of Centre Court action on Tuesday 30th June, with a full VIP hospitality. Throughout the day you will be treated to a champagne reception, four course silver service lunch, afternoon tea and a complimentary bar.

This promotion is officially endorsed by The All England Tennis Club.

To enter the competition just dial the number below, answer the following question leaving your name, address and telephone number:

Q: - Which female tennis player has won the most Wimbledon titles?

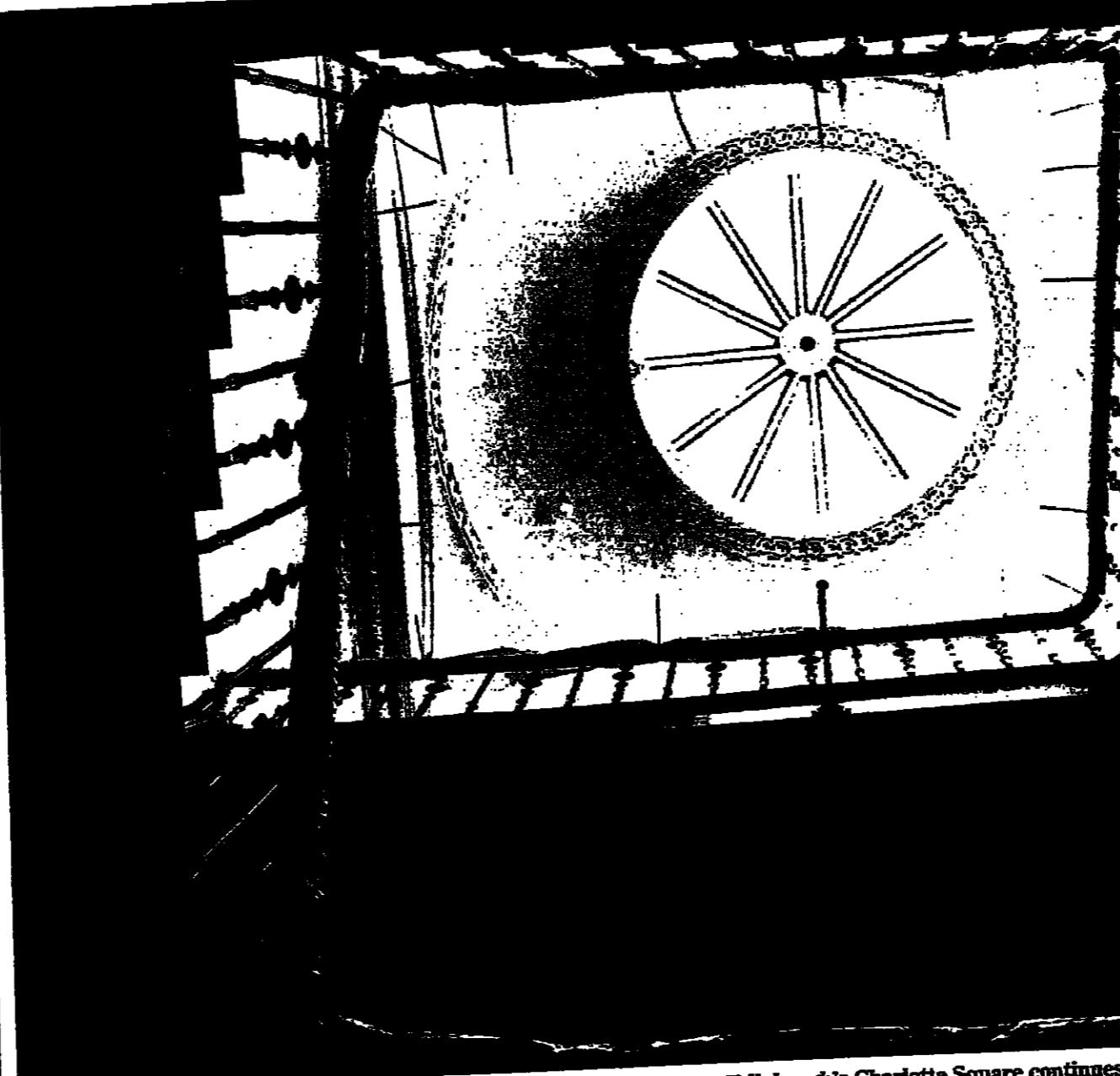
- a) Billy Jean King
- b) Martina Navratilova
- c) Margaret Court

N.B. In the event that the tennis is rescheduled these tickets are valid for Tuesday 30th June only.

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Call our 100 per cent toll-free number and pay no longer than one minute. Lines are open from 8am to 8pm, 7 days a week. Lines are subject to change after 3pm on Friday 26th June. Winners selected at random after three draws on 27th June. The winner will be contacted by phone on Monday 29th June. Terms & conditions apply.



Our series on the restoration of the Scottish National Trust's new HQ in Edinburgh's Charlotte Square continues with a view of the cupola and staircase

Tom Pilson

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk
E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

School action zones

Sir: Most of the so-called initiatives which are proposed for education action zones ("Minister vows to shake up schools", 24 June), have been happening as a matter of course in my comprehensive school for some time.

We regularly organise special arts and sports events, we run homework clubs, staff have professional development, we run the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme and have student mentors for the prevention of bullying.

We, like many other schools, have lost staffing and gained larger groups because we work in a county whose funding has been substantially lower than comparable counties through an unfathomable method of assessing financial need.

I suggest that Stephen Byers, the school standards minister, would do well to "present a fundamental challenge" to an unfair method of allocating funding which is doing far more to hold back the education system in Cambridgeshire than the "vested interests" he mysteriously mentions.

Along with many of my colleagues I rarely leave school before 6.30pm and often go in at weekends and in the holidays. We would be happy to have the opportunity to negotiate our pay and conditions, especially if Mr Byers could see his way to returning to us those negotiating rights.

CAROLYN COOKE
Teacher/Governor, Inspirington Village College, Somersham, Cambridgeshire

Sir: On the back of a torrent of government "educational initiatives" which includes a revised National Curriculum, a Year of Reading, literacy hours, literacy hotlines, summer schools and Saturday classes we are now to have "action zones". Is David Blunkett not aware that we are at the bottom of the European literacy league table because the liberal Sixties spawned a host of "educational initiatives", foisted on us by a generation of whiz-kid advisers who rose to stardom on the basis of a range of expensive, untried and unproven initiatives.

The solution to the problems of education is a well-trained, well-paid teaching force which can attract the best candidates and government which stays out of the classroom.

EDWARD CARRON
Condoner, Shropshire

Hatred for gays

Sir: Your interviews with teenagers about the gay age of consent (23 June) left me deeply depressed. One was not surprised to hear the predictable views on homosexuality of some senior members of the Upper House during these last few days, but I was dismayed to hear that most of the students interviewed felt negative towards gays and described homosexuality as a "lifestyle".

This article was a clear indication of how affective Clause 28 has been. Whole generations of young people seem to be growing up ignorant of the fact that one does not choose one's sexuality. Hussain Kahn, aged

18, who states that he does not agree with homosexuality, would I am sure be appalled to hear that someone might, on the same basis, disapprove of his race and colour.

Having spent all my working life promoting equality for all, and acting always against racist and discriminatory practices, I feel so sad when one minority displays such disregard for another.

Last Saturday, in broad daylight, while shopping in the Chiswick High Road with my partner, we were loudly abused by a young black man as "perverts", without any provocation whatsoever. Perhaps we should be grateful that we were not physically attacked - simply for being discrimination.

EARL RUSSELL
Liberal Democrat Social Security spokesman
House of Lords

Sir: When attempting to gauge the voice of Teenage Britain about the gay age of consent, you might have widened your net a little. Your representative speakers all happened to be BTEC business and finance students at a North London college. Had you bothered to ask a broader cross-section, including those studying English, art music or drama, you might have found a Teenage Britain that is less rabidly homophobic.

MICHAEL STEVENS
Warley, West Midlands

Sir: Continuing campaigns for homosexual equality need to follow through consistently on what was gained by the Commons vote on 22 June, which was essentially about the legality of sexual sex. It affected gay men, exposing the inequality that still exists between them and homosexual women, for whom there is no legal "age of consent". Two ways forward seem clear.

Either there will be, for the first time in English law, a legally enforceable law of lesbian consent. Or there will be no legal constraint on homosexual practice at any age by either gender. The latter might seem to campaigners the more attractive. After all, if it is harmful to criminalise sexual acts by people over 16, how can it be right to criminalise such acts by younger people? And if this is the case with homosexual acts, it can hardly be different for heterosexual acts.

On the day following the Commons vote, the UN published world figures for HIV infection. They showed that, against a background of general increase in the developing world, two African countries had recorded falls in new infections. These were attributed to programmes of sex education emphasising postponement of sexual intercourse and confinement of physical relationships to one partner. What signal, by comparison, has the Westminster Parliament sent out?

RICHARD WILKINS
General Secretary
Association of Christian Teachers
St Albans, Hertfordshire

Sir: I hope that the forthcoming House of Lords vote on the age of consent will not be made the excuse for another campaign of hatred against the hereditary peers ("Persecuted gays", Letters, 24 June).

I trust my fellow peers (of all sorts) enough to believe that they will listen to the arguments and take no final decision until they have done so.

Meanwhile, we should not be condemned for what we have not yet done. Hereditary peers as well as gays have the right to claim that we should not be victims of discrimination.

MILAN SVANDERLIK
London W4

British Library fees

Sir: It is not unfair to ask academics like myself to defray the expenses of the new British Library ("Fee plan for new library", 23 June). However the plan is short-sighted.

It is "penny wise, pound foolish" to invest heavily in a world-class institution and then adopt policies that will reduce usage. Only about one third of the seats are currently being used and fees will reduce the number of users.

The policy will bring some pounds to the library but will deter some foreign scholars who spend considerable sums while residing in London: to reduce the number hardly helps the balance of payments. Although for established academics the proposed fees are manageable, they will be a significant deterrent to postgraduate students and younger scholars.

Sir: Most sadly, the plan undercuts a long and honourable tradition that has made the British Library a mecca for scholars from around the world. What a shame to undercut that reputation and reduce the Library's influence just as the Queen opens the splendid new facility. The fees may be fair, but are they wise?

PROFESSOR W BRUCE LESLIE
History Department
State University of New York at Brockport, New York, USA

Ungrateful Saddam

Sir: With reference to the correspondence (Letters, 20, 22 June) prompted by Felicity Arbuthnot's article "Baghdad Stories", it is a fact that whatever the international community does, Saddam Hussein will find ways to use the Iraqi people as a pawn in his deadly game.

The Kuwait Red Crescent Society announced on 23 May its intention to take humanitarian aid inside Iraq. The aid was to be distributed directly to the Iraqi people by Kuwaiti volunteers because it was feared that if the aid was simply handed to the Iraqi authorities, it would go to the regime's cronies rather than those most in need.

On 27 May the head of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society, Mr Aloush, said that Iraq would welcome the Kuwait Red Crescent Society into Iraq, adding: "We have accepted aid from humanitarian agencies and

from the Red Crescent Societies of many countries."

Saddam Hussein evidently became worried by such "people to people contact", which moreover bypassed him. Reverting to type, on 6 June he issued an order banning forthwith "all items listed under the title 'humanitarian aid'" from abroad. What further evidence does one need to prove that it is Saddam Hussein who is responsible for the horrendous suffering of the Iraqi people?

DR SAAD AL-AJMI
Director
Kuwait Information Centre
Embassy of the State of Kuwait
London SW7

God or the fairies

Sir: What a dreary letter from Maurice Hill ("Fairies stories", 24 June). Apart from his elementary error of confusing religious beliefs with fairies and Father Christmas, he seems unaware that while there is no irrefutable proof of the existence of God, neither is there any final proof of his absence. At the end of the day we have to look at the balance of evidence and make our own choice.

Unfortunately for Mr Hill, the vast majority of the human race throughout history has chosen to accept that the divine dimension is indeed part of reality - and no rationalist or atheistic regime has ever been able to change that.

CANON ROGER CLIFTON
Corsham, Wiltshire

Worry about jobs

Sir: Job insecurity is not "mostly in the mind", despite the fact that the average length of stay in any one job has changed little over the past decade ("Jobs are more secure than people think", 22 June).

Firstly, a greater proportion of those leaving jobs now compared with a decade ago do so through redundancy rather than their own volition. Secondly, the proportion of the labour force classified as employees continues to decline, and the self-employed and those on temporary contracts who have taken their place are likely to experience much greater job insecurity than those employed directly by an employer.

NIGEL WILKINS
London SW7

Market pitfalls

Sir: The article about commodity trading by Stefan Bernstein (24 June) is potentially dangerous for small private investors.

First, anyone approaching Liffe with the aim of trading crude oil would risk open derision, given that the only exchange trading crude oil futures in Europe is the International Petroleum Exchange.

If this did not deter the small investor, the second shock might be finding out about the sums of money involved. The author uses a value of £100 a contract as an example. This figure is misleading, in fact at current oil prices, a single deal would be worth \$14,000.

Third, the author gives examples of information that a small investor

might have in order to predict future prices. It is hardly likely that many, if any, private individuals would have inside knowledge about - using his example - huge oil deposits in Antarctica before the rest of the marketplace. The oil market is very open and rumours of big finds are normally common knowledge among all the participants.

The energy futures market is a highly professional industry. The people involved are highly skilled and experienced. While not wishing to put off private investors, I would advise caution and some in-depth research before ploughing into the market.

SEANA LANIGAN
Assistant Vice-President, Market Services
International Petroleum Exchange
London E1

No conflict

Sir: I am glad to see that in your report of 24 June you do not deny my statement that there is no conflict of interest between the statements I made as shadow President of the Board of Trade and the non-executive directorship I hold of Murray Financial plc. You are doubtless aware that I did register this interest, which is unconnected with my parliamentary duties. I therefore found your decision to place an article on the front page rather surprising.

JOHN REDWOOD MP
(Wokingham, C)
London SW1

IN BRIEF

Sir: So far I have not seen a mention of reintroducing National Service as a means of dealing with so-called soccer hooliganism in your reader's suggestions. In my day, two years in a uniform was considered the only effective way of dealing with the many problems related to young men growing up, especially those who used violence in the process. I should add that I do not myself advocate such a measure but I feel your correspondence on the matter is incomplete without it.

BARRY FANTONI
London SW4

Sir: Your report on Bill Gates's investment in Cliveden estate (19 June) mentioned that the Cliveden estate is owned by the National Trust. The whole property continues to be open to the public, and under the terms of the lease to the hotel access to part of the house is guaranteed. Changes in the ownership of Cliveden plc shares, which are bound to occur from time to time, will not affect these arrangements.

CARL SHILLITO
Property Manager
Cliveden Estate
Toplou, Buckinghamshire

Sir: May I answer the question posed to Mr Frank Fraser by J Swainston concerning the number of beans in a bottle (You ask the Questions, 24 June)? After 59 seconds the bottle would be half full and contain approximately 576 thousand million tons of one-gramme beans.

P MARCHESE
Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire

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Shed few tears if our coal industry dies out

NOW THAT you can get your gas from the electricity company, and electricity from the water company, the Conservative reforms of the energy market are truly filtering through to the consumer. Meanwhile, at the other end of the energy chain, it seems that the realities of the free market have finally got through to the coal industry – and as a result the obituaries are being prepared.

It is tempting, then, to see Margaret Beckett's "rescue package" for coal as a sentimental piece of Old Labour statism, in which the Prime Minister's free-market instincts were forced to compromise with the party's instinct to protect coalminers' jobs. There is some truth in that, but only some. The ideal of a "free market" in energy has proved as elusive as Christianity or communism – always approximated to, never perfected, and with the route hotly disputed.

At the heart of the problem is the route to a free market chosen by Professor Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator. Because the generating industry was privatised as a duopoly between National Power and PowerGen, he sought to encourage new producers to enter the market. This has cut the market share of the two dominant players, but has had the perverse effect in the meantime of encouraging the "dash to gas", because newcomers can build new gas power stations more cheaply than coal-fired plants.

In the past five years, the share of electricity generated by gas has leapt from nothing to one-third, while coal's share has dropped from two-thirds to one-third. But, because the emphasis has been on encouraging new entrants rather than cutting prices, prices are still higher than they should be.

Then there is the peculiar system of pricing electricity, a combination of daily auction (including, bizarrely, some electricity priced at zero) and long-term contracts. Mrs Beckett yesterday promised reform, and in effect argued that, because it would take time to achieve a level playing field – the next stage in the approximation to a truly competitive free market – the coal industry should continue to be protected for an unspecified period.

This is where the Government's argument becomes confused. She said that planning permission for new gas power stations would be restricted, on grounds of "energy policy concerns relating to diversity and security". These are old-fashioned arguments.

Diversity of supply is a minor consideration. Obviously,



it would be better not to destroy the coal industry if it turns out that it could have competed in a fair free market. But there is no point keeping an over-priced coal industry afloat just for the sake of "diversity". And "security" is irrelevant. The idea of safeguarding a long-term indigenous energy supply only matters if we are contemplating a war in Europe at some point in the next quarter-century. No one, for example, can argue that Japan has been held back by having to import almost all its energy.

The only test that matters for the coal industry is whether it can survive in the closest to a free market that can be achieved, and the only test for Mrs Beckett's proposals is to what extent they remove the factors which currently distort the energy market.

Of course, there are wider costs which need to be taken into account, but they by no means all favour coal over other sources of energy. Closing pits plunges whole towns into poverty – and the concentrated loss of jobs is a drain on the taxpayer. But coal is a dirty, dangerous fuel, imposing costs which are difficult to price in monetary terms on our environment and on the lives of miners, two of whom died in a pit collapse only last month.

Mrs Beckett's success in removing market distortions cannot be judged, because all she did was promise a further review. But whenever this much-postponed goal is achieved, we shall find out if the coal industry really is competitive, and should not grieve too much if it is not.

Our responsibility towards Nigeria

AFTER YEARS of Britain shirking its responsibilities towards Nigeria, let us welcome good news all round. The heart attack suffered by the dreadful dictator General Abacha two weeks ago offers a glimmer of hope. Tony Blair has seized the moment by getting on the telephone to the military boss left minding the shop (temporarily, we hope), General Abdulsalam Abubakar, on Tuesday and despatching junior minister Tony Lloyd to Lagos today. It is the right moment to exert leverage, just as the world is enjoying the spectacle of Nigeria's football team in France.

Britain's ties with its former colony do not have as much purchase as they once did, but as Nigeria sinks ever deeper into despotism and corruption, the chance to use what little hold we had was never fully pressed home. The sanctions imposed on Nigeria always fell short of affecting the one commodity which actually mattered, namely oil, while Nigeria's knuckle-rapping "suspension" from the Commonwealth was never turned into full-blooded expulsion.

The arguments over sanctions are always difficult, because corrupt rich elites tend not to suffer from them. And Nigeria has in recent years been ruled by one of the most corrupt, rich elites in the world, impervious to the plight of their country's ordinary people. But, while Abacha was around, the British government should have been at the forefront of attempts to increase the Nigerian regime's isolation – perhaps by such symbolic measures as excluding the Nigerian team from the Olympic Games and the World Cup.

Now, however, Nigeria has a chance to fulfil its potential as one of the leading powers of Africa, being blessed with natural resources and a rich history. Britain must do all it can to help the country towards this goal and to make up for lost time: Mr Lloyd carries a heavy responsibility on his shoulders today.

Oh, what a waste

AH, WELL. We tried. We posted our bottles in the bottle bank. We bundled our newspapers for recycling. And now it turns out they are not wanted. The bottom has fallen out of the waste-paper market. It just goes to show that good intentions are not enough. Good intentions cannot over-ride market forces, which is why the best environmental solutions are those which use market mechanisms. The best incentives to recycling and efficient use of resources are green taxes – such as, for example, a tax on un-recycled paper.

Has Rupert Murdoch just torpedoed the Tory party?



DONALD MACINTYRE
'The Sun' may have performed a service to the centre-left by terminally weakening the Tories

IT WAS just a circulation building stunt. Maybe it owed more to the paper's hunger – richly satisfied – for some short term free publicity than to a considered attempt by Rupert Murdoch to destabilise the Blair government's European policy. Maybe it won't last for ever.

Ministers who have exchanged views in the last 48 hours with the paper's editorial high command on its new anti-EMU campaign, advance each of these propositions at different times. In their optimistic scenario, Murdoch will allow the newspaper to continue fighting against the Euro only up to the moment he thinks he has lost the argument. And then, just as he finally followed his readers – not the other way round, remember – into supporting Labour, so he will back down on EMU.

Maybe, I suspect this underestimates the determination of the News International economic guru, Irwin Stelzer, and the paper's political editor, Trevor Kavanagh, let alone that of Murdoch himself. Nevertheless, almost any reaction to *The Sun's* resumption of its self-appointed role as arbiter of what the Blair government can or can't do, is better than panic. If you think it is all-powerful, try asking those who ran the Tory campaign in 1992 whether they think it was *The Sun* "wot won it". They don't. And because it is so up-front – some might say ludicrously so – it is, at least, as hostile press coverage goes, less insidious than the slyish and wilfully uncritical attack on the once loyal *Daily Record* has been mysteriously lavishing on Alex Salmond, the leader of the Scottish National Party, this week.

It is, nevertheless, a well-timed reminder of the forces Blair has to overcome, if and when he asks the country to back into a single currency. Of these, the most formidable, unfashionable as it to say so, remains not *The Sun* but the Conservative Party, which has 164 more MPs than any newspaper.

This week, the new Shadow Chancellor, Francis Maude, made a speech laying out his economic arguments against EMU in impressive detail. Maude's speech repays reading as much for what it doesn't say as what it does. It doesn't, as William Hague's Fontainebleau speech did, waste time conjuring the demon of EMU as the terminator of the British nation state. Instead, says Maude, we Tories are the true pragmatists. We want to wait – admittedly for a very long time – to see whether EMU works. It is a speech – while adamantly opposed to EMU – which nevertheless seeks to leave a route open to some form of post-EMU future for the Tory party, and perhaps, just as importantly, for Murdoch himself.

What Maude also doesn't do, however, is to extricate his party from its commitment to oppose EMU entry in the next parliament. Since that is overwhelmingly the likeliest period for Tony Blair to hold a referendum on the subject, it simply confirms that the Tory party will stake almost all its hopes for recovery, assuming that it does not actually win the next election, on a victory in a referendum on the Euro after that. It's easy to dismiss that as no threat to Blair at all. Is even a slightly bigger Tory party, *Sun* or no *Sun*, any match for the combined

forces of a Blair Cabinet, the CBI, the TUC and most of industry? But I doubt whether Blair will work on that assumption, if and when the campaign begins. The argument that he just won't have a referendum unless he's sure of winning sounds persuasive. But it's just possible that economic circumstances – say the volatility of sterling or a business clamour about being left out of the deepening single market – will force him to do just that. And there will, of course, be equal television coverage for both sides.

Which is where the apparently separate issue of electoral reform, and its link to EMU, comes in. It is now highly likely that Hague will get through the Euro-elections next year without the split that once seemed inevitable. The selection of Euro-candidates was entirely satisfactory for Hague. The candidates include many

of the incumbent pro-European Tory MEPs. But to get selected they either supported, or at least equivocated about, Hague's opposition to the single currency. The result will be that he has a clear hand in framing an anti-EMU manifesto. (Two incumbents that bravely restated their firm support for EMU, John Stevens and Brendan Donnelly, were dumped.) It's just possible that a few firmly pro-EMU Tories might chance their arm, under the banner, say of Edwina Currie, by standing as independents. But the big beasts, like Kenneth Clarke, are very unlikely to give them backing.

At this stage. But a lot could change if there is a referendum vote in favour of any form of proportional representation for the Commons before the next election. Clarke, as it happens, is in favour of the first past the post system, and will campaign for it. But that doesn't mean that he wouldn't see the opportunity afforded by a new electoral system if the British people voted for one. It becomes much more likely that, at odds with the Tory leadership on the one issue which he regards more fundamentally than any other, and with the prospect of serious money from business for a new pro-European right of centre party, he would consider forming one, made viable for the first time by the existence of a proportional electoral system.

The big men of Tory pro-Europeanism, not just Clarke but Heath, Howe and Heseltine, would not, of course, need a new party to campaign vigorously for EMU in a referendum. But some of their supporters,

considering whether to risk their political careers by opposing the party line, might well need to feel they had somewhere to go. Unlike the SDP in 1981, they might well take the party's financial backers with them. Such a split, moreover, would guarantee the future prospect of a Commons with a permanent, built-in pro-European majority, because it would rob, with devastating consequences, the possibility of a right wing anti-European Conservative Party again winning power. And that in itself could well help to create the market momentum towards EMU entry. It may not be true as some in the City are saying, that the market reaction to a vote for PR will be to sell sterling. But it would go a long way to satisfy the markets that an EMU referendum is imminent.

Both EMU entry and electoral reform thus become part of the same picture of recasting, long term, the British political map. But it may also be that electoral reform becomes a desirable, possibly an even essential, component of a successful EMU referendum. The prospects, in the long run, of a Tory split have been made, perhaps, just a shade likelier by the new campaign started by *The Sun*, simply for the reason that it will make Hague even less inclined than he already is to appease the pro-Europeans like Clarke. It would be ironic if *The Sun*, after all, has performed its greatest service to the centre-left by helping terminally to weaken the Conservatives, the one party hell-bent on delivering what Rupert Murdoch and *The Sun* wants.

Podium, page 4

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I will never profit from Diana's death"
Earl Spencer

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"A truth which is clearly understood can no longer be written with sincerity"
Marcel Proust,
French author

India for Free

(you'll pay for it!)

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You'll only need a week off work.

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MONITOR

THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
The US appeal court's verdict on Microsoft



Initially devastating blow to the antitrust case against Microsoft... The ruling highlights the drawbacks of a suit focused closely on the rivalry between Microsoft and its browser rival, Netscape Communications. This exposes the Justice Department both to judicial hazards and to public scepticism. The case may yet recover from both of these problems. But it will not be easy.

Salon Magazine (Internet)
Even if the Justice Department doesn't appeal this

nation's retail shelves – bundled Internet Explorer and all. It's a commercial victory for the beleaguered company. But it may be a Pyrrhic one.

New York Times
For all the dust kicked up in the legal battle over Microsoft Corporation's right to include Windows 95 operating system, a ruling by a US appeals court this week in the software giant's favour is likely to have little impact on the imminent release of Windows 98, a new

version that integrates the browser even more tightly. What the dispute has managed to do is to focus attention on a product that has played to widespread yawns in computer industry publications. In re-

cent weeks, even Microsoft has been playing down revenue expectations for Windows 98. Financial Times
The US Court of Appeal in Washington has dealt a poten-

PANDORA

HOW DISAPPOINTING to read yesterday of Stella McCartney's decision - owing to work pressures - to quit the Foreign Office's Panel 2000, a committee of luminaries charged with promoting "Cool Britannia". However, the British fashion industry ought to provide a fitting replacement with little difficulty.

The most obvious choice would seem to be Vivienne Westwood (below). Having created, with Malcolm McLaren, the original punk "look" on the King's Road in the early Seventies, *grande dame* Westwood remains at the cutting edge of international fashion. Unfortunately, a phone call to her office suggests that she, like McCartney, may be too engrossed in her own work to help Robins Cook boost British exports.

Pandora asked whether Westwood would be willing to serve on the panel. "Only she can answer that question, but I can't ask her today," a spokeswoman said. "She's far too busy launching her fragrance." Perhaps if Robin rings her direct?

AS WILLIAM Hague's bout of flu keeps him incapacitated for day after day, the insidious gossip about more serious physical or mental problems rises to a boil. Fortunately for the Boy Wonder, his inner core of faithful supporters has rallied round.

Alan Duncan, who became junior spokesman for health in the re-shuffle, joined with Sebastian Coe to substitute for Hague on a tour of Yorkshire last week. He was overheard at a Westminster party on Wednesday evening saying, "I enjoyed playing Doctors and Nurses." Let's hope it has not gone to his head or new boss, Ann Widdecombe, may have to sit on him a bit.

WHEN 'NEWSNIGHT' devoted a large part of Wednesday's programme to a discussion of *The Sun's* attack on "dangerous" Tony Blair, it offered David Hill, former Labour chief media spokesman, as the Government's defender against anti-Murdoch conspiracy theorist Andrew Neil and Andrew Kavanagh, Sun political editor. Though he was definitely "on message", Hill is now employed as a PR flack by Bell Pottinger Good Relations. He took the call to appear on the programme on his mobile while attending a Bell Pottinger drinks party in Cardiff Bay, then toddled off to the BBC's local studio. Just one more example of our broadcasters' ingenuity in finding substitutes for increasingly rare government spokespersons.

WHAT IMPACT will the recent report from think-tank Demos suggesting that children should have the right to approve their parents' divorce have on the Government's Ministerial Group on the Family? Considering that the group includes Tessa Jowell (divorced), Alan Howarth (divorced) and chairman Jack Straw (divorced, with divorced parents), it will be interesting to see whether the Demos proposal gains their support.

PETER TEMPLE-MORRIS, the Herefordshire Tory MP who defected to the Labour Party last weekend, joined some of his constituents in a private box at Lords on Wednesday to watch their county play Middlesex. After a discussion about the possibility of night cricket matches being played at Lords, one wealthy businessman proclaimed loudly: "There are two things that are never going to happen. One is night games of cricket at Lords; the other is a Labour MP in Herefordshire." Many of the 50 or so guests left the box soon afterwards. Perhaps to start organising a by-election?

SIR GEORGE Martin's call on record companies to ditch groups who take or advocate drugs was a brave but perhaps unrealistic entreaty. Just how unrealistic should be clear to the ex-producer of the Beatles when he co-hosts the Merseyside Development Agency's celebration of 50 years of Liverpool music at Westminster in July. One of the invited bands is Cast whose lead singer, John Power, has appeared on the cover of 'Melody Maker' flourishing a spliff in his hand.



THE INDEPENDENT PRECISION TIMING

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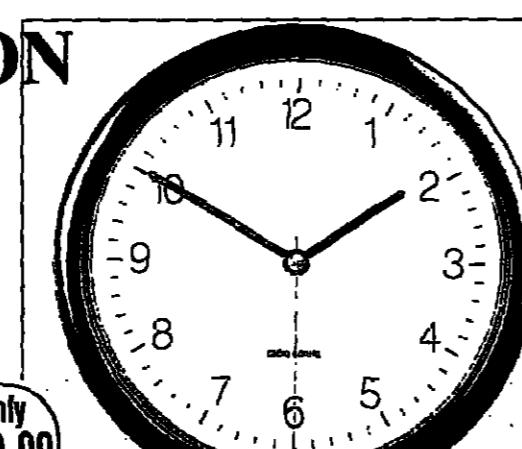
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A fine monument to bad taste



PHILIP HENSHER

It is a truly horrid thing, the Harrods shrine, as unappealing as the taste for conspiracy theories

are kept back from this little shrine, but you can see that the two vases of flowers are in fact fake. The candles, on the other hand, are real. There is a collection box and a copperplate notice inviting donations to an Al Fayed charitable fund, and some people have left flowers. When I was there, there was even a little poem about the King and Queen of All Our Hearts.

There is a senselessness and a lack of dignity about monuments of any sort, but they have the appalling stinkiness of the intensely fat. No one would put up pictures of his dead son in his shop just to drum up a bit of custom, of course, so we must assume that the shrine at the foot of the Egyptian escalator represents a good deal of feeling.

And in a way, even the cheapest and most awful of monuments to the dead is witness to a profound human belief: a sense that there ought to be some reason why people die, a sense that you ought to do everything to explain it, to perpetuate a memory, to fight against oblivion.

Monuments, in a previous age, were often decried on principle. The 17th-century philosopher Sir Thomas Browne, thinking them contradictory to Christian beliefs, said that "to subist in lasting Monuments, to live in their productions, to exist in their names ... was large satisfaction unto old expectations." In other words, once we get a glimpse of the Christian eternity, we won't bother with worrying about an earthly posterity.

"Oh look," an American matron was observing, with no apparent irony, as I was standing there. "Isn't that sad." Yes, terribly sad, to have your son killed and have no way of expressing feeling than to destroy your own dignity in a hundred awful ways. It is a truly horrid thing, the Harrods shrine, as unappealing as Mr Fayed's taste for proliferating conspiracy theories, as his firm public belief that someone, somewhere was to blame when things went wrong.

But to be honest, the kindest thing any of us can do is to come to the conclusion that, despite all appearances, he must be suffering. From the revolting gilt-and-marble monument, the loudly aired conspiracy theories, as his firm public belief that someone, somewhere was to blame when things went wrong.

The old explanation for brutal and sudden death has gone, and now we want to keep the faces of the dead alive, in tasteless and embarrassing shrines at the bottom of escalators, in books of remembrance. Unable to accept that people die for no reason.

The lessons for living we learn from the dying



DAME CICELY SAUNDERS

If we do not contemplate dependence and loss, then we impoverish ourselves as a society

not be isolated in a distant pity, or even distaste, then it will have served a good purpose.

As a society we do not care to contemplate dependence and loss; and yet if we fail to do so, we impoverish ourselves. For there are many lessons in living which the dying can teach us, if only we listen to them.

Above all, they make us look at our priorities and values. As someone once asked: "Whoever said on his death-bed, 'I wish I had spent more time at the office'?"

Another St Christopher's Hospice patient has talked to us about what makes good visiting of the dying. She says: "Always remember that the best gift you can give is yourself and your spare time." But she also has firm things to say about the need for flexibility regarding when to visit and for how long. It is important not to forget that dignity can be maintained even in mortal illness, if only visitors demonstrate that they recognise the essential spirit of the patient, however ill that patient may be.

She knows, of course, that visiting is not easy, but often the patient

can take the lead, if the visitor allows them to. The staff at St Christopher's had to use all their skills over many months to give this patient space to be herself, free of the pressures and pain of what could have been a devastating illness.

Not everyone has the resilience and endurance of Herbie Mowes and our two patients; but everyone has something unique to them. And this can be summed up and fulfilled at the end of their lives, if they are paid the respect and attention that should be available to them.

Much has been learned and published on the details of pain and symptom control at the end of life. No nurse or doctor is now further from palliative care advice than a telephone call to one of the many specialists in this challenging field.

Pain can be analysed, assessed and tackled, in the vast majority of cases, with understanding concern and drugs available to everyone. Specialised treatments are increasingly available to the few with particularly complex and intransigent problems.

Above all, people facing the end of their lives need to know that this may well be its most decisive moment, for people move fast and resolve many problems in a crisis. Many families achieve long-term reconciliations and find new strengths at this time.

Herbie needed the skills and caring attitudes of his hospice, at-home nurses and GPs, but above all the unfailing availability and support of his wife. When he had a sudden surge of pain, that was dealt with, and we next see him in the BBC film enjoying champagne at Christmas.

Next he experiences a phase of depression and desires a hastened end to his suffering, but this passes after understanding listening. Following this passage, he looks forward to a spring that turns out to be his best ever, the beauty of each day enjoyed as never before.

As Herbie dies, and his breathing becomes laboured, his wife holds him. Some viewers may have found this distressing, but she remains calm and loving. I am reminded of the times I have said: "I believe he is no more conscious of this than he was of snoring when he was well."

And had the relieved response: "He was always a noisy sleeper."

People are themselves, whatever life throws at them. Herbie shows us that a human being can



Herbie Mowes, subject of 'The Human Body'

make the best of the end of his life.

He was helped by his wife, his neighbours and the hospice team, but the achievement was his. If, as a result of sharing the end of Herbie's life, we can become better neighbours to the dying and the bereaved, he will have enriched us all.

Dame Cicely Saunders is the founder and chairman of St Christopher's Hospice. Founded in 1967, St Christopher's, with its emphasis on palliative care for the dying, began the modern hospice movement.

We're not anti-euro, just patriotic

FIRST LET me dispel the three most common myths about our policy, which is, for the avoidance of doubt, that Britain should not join the euro during the remainder of this parliament, nor subject only to a vote by all our members, during the next.

The first myth is that our policy is anti-European. To refute this, I pray in aid no less a man than Gordon Brown himself. He told the House of Commons last week: "Conservative members should have some pride in the fact that the new spokesman on financial matters was the minister who, in 1991, signed the Maastricht Treaty."

Second, it is said that the Conservatives have a dogmatic, arbitrary approach. Well, we are patriotic. That is why we have said we want time to see whether the euro would be appropriate for Britain. The pragmatic course is to see whether it works.

The third myth is that the Conservatives believe that the euro is bound to fail. The truth is that we do not know whether it will fail. That is why we propose to keep Britain's options

open. We do not want to see mass unemployment in key export markets. Even if the euro seems to have worked for continental Europe, that does not mean it would be right for us.

Let's start by looking at the arguments commonly deployed in favour of the euro.

First, there will be greater exchange rate stability; second, business transaction costs will be lower; lastly, interest rates would be lower. This prospectus is allied to the threatening suggestion that investment to the UK, a rich source of jobs and prosperity, would dry up if we were outside. However, it is not like that.

For a start, none of these suggested advantages is quite what it seems. Even if you take these gains at face value, they would only be part of the story. EMU is not some bolt-on accessory. Joining the single currency would mean irreversible changes to the way our economy is run. British interest rates would have to be set to suit the economic needs of Europe as a whole, rather than of Britain. That would mean interest rates that were likely to be wrong for Britain

lower if we join the euro. But they will also be lower if we don't. For those who trade with several countries in the euro area, costs will be less, whether we are in or not.

What about interest rates? As even Mr Brown has to admit, the single currency will not work for Britain unless our economic cycle and structure converge with the Continental economies. That is the pre-condition for us to live with a single European interest rate.

If we were to join today, we would have to cut interest rates by four points, provoking an unsustainable inflationary boom. The incontestable fact is that our economy is cyclically and structurally different. This effectively rules out membership of the euro for the remainder of this parliament and the next.

For some reason, Gordon Brown always leaves tax out of his analysis of EMU. But almost everyone involved with EMU expects it to be accompanied by at least some measure of fiscal integration. After all, the E of EMU stands for economic union.

In a monetary union, countries that fall behind will not be



PODIUM

FRANCIS MAUDE
From the Shadow Chancellor's first major speech, to the Political Committee of the Carlton Club, London

nine times out of 10. And EMU would also be likely to mean a degree of harmonised taxation. For Britain harmonisation can mean only one thing - tax rises.

Obviously, Britain would have absolute exchange rate stability with the rest of the euro area. But this greater stability would be bought at the expense of greater instability with the rest of the world.

Transaction costs will be

able to use their exchange rates to price themselves back into the market. Nor does the EU have anything like the labour mobility that other monetary unions need to make them work. Indeed, many Continental politicians support EMU precisely because they see it as the route to fiscal union, and thus political union.

What would this mean for Britain? Quite simply, it would mean that the competitive advantage of our low-tax economy, painfully built up over the last 18 years, would be thrown away. Let me finally deal with the threat that we would lose inward investment if we remained outside.

This is not legally possible. The Treaty of Rome, the Single European Act, and Maastricht guarantee our access to the single market.

Labour is attracted to EMU for political reasons: it believes it would make it look modern, to show it has shaken off its socialist past. It is happy to display sophisticated contempt for any expression of nationalism. If Britain shoehorns itself into EMU, it is our businessmen who stand to pay the price.

مكنا من ألا اصل

Can Sky save this stricken sport?



DEREK PRINGLE

Since soccer became sexy, cricket, once football's closest relative, found itself looking like a dowdy aunt

THE GOVERNMENT'S decision to remove all cricket from the protected list of television events will be seen with mixed emotions.

For the good burghers at the England and Wales Cricket Board [ECB], the news means the chance to finally get TV to pay a fair market price for their product.

For others, the move will be grave confirmation of cricket's diminished status and a final cutting of its ties with amateur ethos, still widely upheld within clubs like the MCC.

The lengthy delay, despite the proposals of Lord Gorton's Advisory Group in March, show what a potentially unpopular decision, Chris Smith, the Secretary of State felt de-listing cricket to be.

As a sport, cricket is followed largely through the media, of which the BBC's coverage is a large chunk and it has no doubt taken some fierce and persistent lobbying to have it removed.

And yet the move, however unpopular is probably a necessary one. As a game struggling to make itself heard above the hip clamour of football, cricket's future has long been a cause for concern, particularly with regard to the young, whose leisure time is now more tempestuously contested for than at any other time in history.

Money, never thought to have been a problem since the Seventies, has only really become an issue in cricket since football's finances headed for the stars, or at least the Murdoch satellite that orbited them. Suddenly, with money to burn and marketing men happy to light the bonfire, football's image became very sexy, succeeding even in catching the eye of those who had previously given it little more than a passing glance.

Naturally, other sports became envious and cricket, once football's closest relative, suddenly found itself becoming a dowdy aunt. Without colossi, like Ian Botham, David Gower and Graham Gooch, to seduce both young and old, its appeal has perceptibly dwindled.

What's more, its purse, while remaining full enough to keep an antiquated and impoverished county system ticking over, did not contain the means to invest – at least in any sustainable way – in its future.



A typical English cricket scene, with few spectators and hundreds of empty seats

RIGHT OF REPLY

RICHARD TILT



The head of the Prison Service responds to Andreas Whittam Smith's attack on UK jails

ANDREAS WHITTAM Smith's criticisms of the Prison Service are ill-informed and outdated. Great improvements in conditions have been made over the past few years despite an increasing prison population.

The suggestion that prisoners are still required to "stop out" is simply not true. The practice of slopping out was degrading and that is why it was ended in 1996 when the programme of providing integrated sanitation in cells was completed.

Where in-cell sanitation is not provided prisoners have 24 hour access to toilet facilities. We have not held three prisoners in a cell designed for one since 1994. The use of police cells was eliminated in 1995.

To suggest that prison officers "deny the humanity of the people in their care" is offensive to my staff, who provide a supportive regime for prisoners. The job is highly pressurised, and sometimes dangerous, and it is unfair to underestimate the efforts made by officers to provide a constructive environment.

The assertion that the Prison Service is aware of drug-smuggling techniques used by prisoners and their visitors yet does nothing to stop this is unfair. The Prison Service operates a very active anti-drugs policy, concentrating on security, treatment and education. This has led to a steady decline in the rate of positive test results.

The presence of drugs in our prisons can lead to health problems, debt and bullying, and as a result we are committed to tackling the problem. Those found to be abusing drugs can be given additional imprisonment, have to receive their visitors behind screens, and lose other privileges.

I would like to invite Mr Whittam Smith to visit a prison. I would be delighted to accompany him.

Judicious verdict on courtroom drama

FRIDAY BOOK

THE JURYMAN'S TALE BY TREVOR GROVE, BLOOMSBURY, £11.99

The Juryman's Tale

IT WAS a breathtaking moment in an extraordinary trial. OJ Simpson stood before a world-wide audience solemnly taking the exhibit in his iron fist. The tedious hours broadcast live from court were forgotten in seconds as he put on the glove: "It doesn't fit."

American lawyers practise their televised appearances. The sessions are choreographed, the moves rehearsed. No longer is the jury their only audience. The case reminded us that in Britain, the theatre of the court remains discrete. Big moments in complex trials are reduced to soundbites illustrated by pastel sketches. Juries still occupy a hidden world.

Plucked from their daily lives, jurors are thrown in at the deep end of an often fiercely adversarial process with no tutoring and minimal information. All that unites a jury is its chance selection. It is unquestionably intimidating, but remains the cornerstone of our judicial system.

In *The Juryman's Tale*, Trevor Grove responds to the call of duty: the citizen becomes the juror. Entering the "solid, dignified and slightly ludicrous" physical world of the Old Bailey, his observation of its social scene captures the imagination. The apprehension of first-time jurors is transparent as he describes the ebb and flow of the jury restaurant, counting the distribution of newspapers, making assumptions about age, class and dress codes.

Soon he is immersed in a gripping and unusual case. It lasts 64 days, fusing high drama and deep sadness with low farce and confusion. A Greek shipping magnate has been kidnapped and held to ransom by two compatriots, minded by two Frenchmen who later maintain their right to silence. A seemingly straightforward prosecution: a cruel imprisonment for nine days in a "pitch-dark, windowless room not much larger than a cupboard, reeking of urine".

The case appears cut-and-dried. But the defence argues that the victim was "in" on his own kidnap. They allege that, with massive gambling debts, he stage-managed the event to extort money from his family.

Much talk on stories of wealth and lifestyle that stagger the jury.

Evidence from the victim's family presses home the significance of family solidarity in Greek culture. Then the key defendant sacks his barrister to defend himself.

Grove recounts the whole process with precision, good humour and studied reflection. He was no ordinary juror. He took copious notes, writing up the case each evening.

Some of the best moments are in the passages derived from these

Following the closing speeches

and the summing-up, the expectant reader draws up a chair in the jury room. Alas, Grove must disappoint. Unable to reveal the content of the deliberation, he sends the reader packing. As jury foreman, he is proud to disclose that they rejected a "verdict-driven deliberation". Rather than taking an early vote on guilt, they opted for an "evidence-based deliberation", encouraging open discussion. After four working days and a weekend, the votes were taken one by one: unanimity on all counts. "We sat back in silence, overwhelmed by what had just occurred. Then the tension suddenly ebbed." How well he conveys that tension.

For Trevor Grove, the jury delivered. It is an "admirable idea" which will only continue to work "so long as we have faith in it".

Not so for detractors. Having established the "view from the inside", he seeks out the jury's enemies and sympathisers. Now the professional journalist, he lines up the usual suspects: Devlin, Popplewell, Blom-Cooper, Runciman, Zander, Tumim and so on.



The Old Bailey: a solid, dignified and slightly ludicrous world

The detractors are severe. Juries are amateurish, ignorant and non-accountable. Judges are professional, reliable and accountable.

Important here is the distinction between judges as summarisers and as decision-makers. Would they become case-hardened? Concerns abound over the distance between judges and those they would judge.

Grove presents a shopping-list for "modest" reform that includes exemptions, voluntary jurors, age qualification, peremptory challenges, juror education and the 13th, or reserve, juror. He also covers note-taking questions, instructions and legal jargon. Much of this has been discussed before, but the shared experience of a difficult case widens and makes accessible a crucial debate.

PHIL SCRATON

The reviewer is director of the Centre for Studies in Crime and Social Justice and author of the forthcoming book *Hillsborough: The Truth*.

FRIDAY POEM

ULLABY BY JOHN TRANTER

I'm not jealous of your pet executives –
their coma therapy, their new guitars.
The latest boyfriend's hardly seventeen,
isn't that what the tabloids say?
In the cheap hotel, the heaps of magazines –
You Can't Go Back to Woop Woop, sobs
the big print. And the speed jerking
up the spinal column to its spasms above.

Now the sea heaps itself on the pillow

with its wacky promises, and you're floating
through the ceiling again. Tell sex to go
back to the playpen where it came from. Your
future's waiting: suburbia loud with radios,
telling you to wake up now, and do the shopping!

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John Tranter, *Late Night Radio*,
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Vice-Admiral Sir Fitzroy Talbot

FITZROY TALBOT enjoyed the 88 years of his life, half of which he spent in the Royal Navy.

His first ambition had been to be a soldier, and a cavalryman to boot, which was not perhaps altogether surprising since his mother had been named after the 1864 Derby winner, Blair Athol. But his father was a distinguished Captain RN and two cousins were admirals: Sandhurst lost to Dartmouth and he entered in 1923. He passed out in 1926, much nearer the bottom than the top of his term - nearly four-fifths of the way down. And yet he - and a contemporary one place even lower - were the only two who rose to the flag list. This seemingly capricious outcome characterised his naval career. He was fortunate in his ability to ride out the changing patterns in his life so philosophically - "That's life, and you can't please everyone all the time," as he wrote in his memoirs, *Old Rope*.

This was just as well, for Fate dealt him some hard knocks to start with, some of them positively unfair, as opposed to merely unfortunate. Otherwise he typified that generation who were very junior officers in 1939 and who were lucky to end the war as commanders - and who then were fortunate in their appointments in a shrinking service and an uncertain peace.

He first went to sea in 1927 as a midshipman Royal Oak, in time for the legendary courts-martial which resulted from a misguided remark about the quoiningly named bandmaster of the ship by the Rear-Admiral flying his flag in her. These in turn involved two officers and their commander-in-chief, whose careers all went awry. Talbot's captain reported pointedly that his "only redeeming feature is his sense of humour".

Life as a sub-lieutenant was no less problematical. He went to the China station in the new county class cruiser Cumberland and returned to the older light cruiser Centaur whence, to the regret of his seniors and the wrath of his relations, he opted out of general service for the Fleet Air Arm. This was an unfortunate diversion; another aircraft collided with his and, though he survived, it

was with a permanently damaged ankle that ended his flying career.

Rejoining the Fleet, he was appointed again to Royal Oak in the Mediterranean and from her to Bryony, ostensibly classed as a despatch vessel (the remnant of an earlier vocabulary, still retained despite the existence of wireless telegraphy), and *de facto* the private yacht of the Commander-in-Chief. Here, for two happy years, he was officially required to combine business with pleasure, his principal duties concerned with providing polo facilities for senior officers.

Such virtue brought its own re-

'That's life, and you can't please everyone all the time,' as he wrote in his memoirs, Old Rope

ward. While still a Lieutenant he was given his own command, albeit of the coal-fired 1918 minesweeper infamously named Stoke, displacing all of 710 tons and, though a year younger than Bryony, only half her size - but his own ship. She had an uneventful commission, which was perhaps just as well, for it led to Talbot's appointment to the new destroyer Imperial, as First Lieutenant. This took him to the Mediterranean again, and the Spanish Civil War; when the Second World War broke out he was removed, still a Lieutenant with seniority of 1932, to command the 10th Anti-Submarine Striking Force, a rather grandiloquent title for four trawlers taken up from trade but, again, a command.

He had little to report beyond survival, an achievement of its own in the memorably hard first winter of the war, until they were sent to the relief of the ill-fated Norwegian expeditionary force at Andalsnes in April 1940. They lifted nearly 5,000

men in two runs a night until, on the fourth evening, Talbot's Cope Sireto was bombed and her captain wounded in his left arm and hand. He demonstrated style by pausing to have a public shave between beaching his ship and ditching any confidential books on board. He came home in Glasgow, with King Haakon of Norway, the king's son and much of his nation's gold reserves. Talbot was awarded the DSO, unusual for a Lieutenant, and after his wounds were healed, was sent with a half stripe to command the 3rd MGB flotilla at Fowey.

He soon saw action off the French coast, and nearer home in July when his own MGB46 made a high-speed transit of Plymouth Sound and the Hamoaze to detonate acoustic mines which were closing the port. Surprisingly this feat received no official recognition and it may be significant that, after a riotous party soon afterwards in Fowey, a board of inquiry was critical of Talbot's leadership. This was had enough. But soon after that, he was found ashore, while his boat was at sea, by a visiting staff officer (a VC of the First World War) who Talbot described as "a slightly unbalanced fire-eater" who advised their lordships that he was "unfit for any type of command". This was palpably unfair, but matters were made worse by an explanatory letter from Talbot's own Flag Officer to the Admiralty being destroyed in an air raid. His hopes of a destroyer disappeared and he was sent to Edinburgh as a supernumerary watch-keeper.

This was something of a public rebuke, but fortunately she was a happy ship with a good captain who soon appreciated Talbot's zeal and appointed him as First Lieutenant. This demonstration of professional recognition and a glowing report, accompanied by a letter to the Second Sea Lord based on the experience of a convoy to Cape Town, two to Malta and being torpedoed on the way home from Murmansk - again carrying foreign gold - led to Talbot's first destroyer command, of the old *Whitshed* with the 18th Destroyer Flotilla at Harwich.

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Dr Waryam Singh

EYEBROWS WERE raised in certain quarters of polite Edinburgh society when in 1991, a somewhat obscure Sikh ear, nose and throat surgeon from one of their suburbs was nominated for the Annual Great Scot of the Year Award for medicine. It's not every year that Scotland can boast a Nobel prizewinner in Medicine or Science, so Waryam Singh was not surprisingly pipped at the post by Sir James Black, though it was Singh's nomination that caught the public imagination and, having met at the Downing Street reception, he and Black became fast friends. The Nobel laureate hinted darkly on more than one occasion that he regarded Singh as a far more ingenious man than himself.

One reason perhaps was Singh's remarkable skills in technical innovation. His speech valve for instance, now widely used around the world, was designed to provide "hands free" speech for patients who had undergone laryngectomy for cancer and in consequence now face life with permanent tracheostomy. Other speech valves required the patient to "stop up" the device with a fingertip and for many, the Singh Speech System, patented in 1987, provided a solution to a troublesome and often embarrassing drawback in communication.

In addition, for many years, he was very much in the forefront of analytical voice research, pioneering computer-programming techniques for measurement of laryngeal pressures and speech profiles. Equally, as a practical man, he was amongst the first to recognise the crucial importance of psychosocial rehabilitation for laryngectomy patients, founding a local laryngectomy club in 1983, well before such concerns had become widespread.

At the time of his death, he was working in close collaboration with Keele University (to which he had just been appointed Professor though, alas, was fate never to take up the post) on further laboratory techniques for assessment and improvement of non-laryngeal speech - a key initiative since the continued prevalence of cigarette smoking throughout the world will doubtless ensure a continuing high volume of laryngeal cancer patients, many of whom will require radical surgery for cure.

Waryam Singh was born in the Punjab and educated at Patiala Medical College, qualifying in 1962 and almost immediately entering the specialty of ENT surgery and arriving in the UK for postgraduate studies in 1963. After early posts at the Whittington and Central Middlesex Hospitals he travelled north to Aberdeen, rapidly becoming en-

raptured with Scotland and the Scots, and remaining there (apart from a brief period as a locum at St Thomas's Hospital in London) for the remainder of his career.

He was appointed in 1980 as a consultant in ENT surgery and, despite being single-handed and in relative isolation in the military units of the District Hospital (Bangour General in West Lothian), he was determined to develop a voice research laboratory in the region. Aided by an award from the Scottish Home and Health Department, and due entirely to his unceasing efforts, this took shape shortly after the opening of the St John's Hospital, Livingston, just outside Edinburgh, in 1988.

The voice laboratory is now a focus for observers and collaborating scientists from all over the world. Health officials, colleagues, junior staff alike - we all found that a potent and charismatic mixture of charm, tenacity, and single-mindedness made him a most difficult man to say 'no' to

ficult man to say "no" to. His lack of pomposity was reflected in his preference always to be known as "Dr" rather than "Mr" - the normal appellation for

His local fame (or was it notoriety?) was assured when he fitted a Singh speech prosthesis to the throat of the post-laryngectomy vicar who could now deliver lengthy sermons. Even more importantly, Singh rapidly developed a wider international reputation for academic and practical excellence both in the fields of head and neck surgery, and also voice production and restoration.

Among many papers, essays and books, his book *Functional Surgery of the Larynx and Pharynx* (written with David Soutar, 1992) has proved very popular and influential. He hosted and organised the first ever International Voice Symposium in Edinburgh in 1987, and brought together 300 delegates from 40 countries.

Active in the fields both of surgical



Waryam and Maya Singh at the 25th annual conference of the British Association of Head and Neck Oncologists, held in Edinburgh, 1993

research and medical politics - each so consuming as to be generally exclusive of each other - he became the first ever British doctor to be invited to take the presidency of the European Association of Phoniatrics as well as holding the posts of Chairman of the Overseas Doctors Association of Scotland and President of the Lothian Section of the BMA for five years (1990-95).

In 1993, as President of the British Association of Head and Neck Oncologists, he stamped his exuberant personality on this multimodal interdisciplinary group by rapidly expanding the membership during his two years of office and by bringing of the most successful of all its 25 annual meetings despite the misgivings of many consultants that a conference outside London would surely prove disastrous. In this he was greatly supported as ever by his wife, Maya, who herself gladly gave up a promising career in ophthalmology to support his many activities.

Universities around the world clamoured for his expertise and wisdom. He was the first British surgeon to receive the French Comité d'Honneur Association de Rééducateurs des Mutés de la Voix for work on reconstructive surgery of the larynx. He took visiting professorships at Mayo Clinic, Berlin, Prague, and Kyoto and was awarded honorary diplomas or degrees from universities in France, Russia, Hungary and Portugal (including, in 1994, the medal of Distinction of the Portuguese Society of Otorhinolaryngology and Head and Neck Surgery).

He was at the Université Ziekenhuis in Leuven, Belgium, as visiting professor, when he suffered his final devastating heart attack.

Jeffrey Tobias

Waryam Singh Brara, ear, nose and throat and head-and-neck surgeon; born Punjab, India 1 June 1933; married 1980 Dr Maya Sudha (one son, one daughter); died Leuven, Belgium 30 May 1998.

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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

CARSTEN: Francis, Emeritus Professor at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, on 23 June, in hospital, aged 88. Father of Oberst Colm and Jutta, General at Soldiers' Crest Cemetery, West Chapel, Friday 3 July, 3.30pm. Flowers to J.F. Kenyon, 9 Pond Street, London NW3 2PN.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen, Colonel-in-Chief, visits the Corps of Royal Engineers, Hembridge, Berkshire; and, as Patron, attends the Women's Royal Voluntary Service's Diamond Celebration Garden Party at Milton Hill House, Abingdon, Oxfordshire. The Prince of Wales attends the England v Colombia World Cup football match at Lens, France. The Duchess of Gloucester, President, Royal Academy of Music, attends the Graduation Ceremony, St Marylebone Parish Church, London NW1. The Duke of Kent, President, All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, attends the Wimbledon Championships, London SW19.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am; band provided by the Welsh Guards.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS are charged at 25.50 a line (VAT extra).

GAZETTE

BIRTHDAYS

Mr Claudio Abbado, conductor, 65; Sir Campbell Adamson, former chairman, Abbey National, 76; Sir Alan Bailey, former Permanent Secretary, Department of Transport, 67; Professor Kenneth Barker, Vice-Chancellor and chief executive, De Montfort University, 64; Mr Leslie Carpenter, former chairman, Reed International, 71; Mr Georgie Fame, singer and songwriter, 55; Dr Alexander Fenton, Director, European Ethnological Research Centre, Edinburgh, 69; Mr William Hamilton, former MP, 81; Rear-Admiral Sir David Haslam, hydrographer, 75; Professor Ruth Kempson, linguist, 54; Mr Robert MacLennan MP, 62; Sir Peter Miles, former Keeper of the Privy Purse, 74; Miss Eleanor Parker, actress, 76; Professor Sir Alan Peacock, economist, 76; Mr Peter Pike MP, 61; Mr Nicholas Polunin, environmentalist, 82; Lord Rawlinson of Ewell QC, former Attorney-General, 76; Mr Philip Sawford ME, 48; Professor Maurice Wilkes, computer scientist, 85; Mr Colin Wilson, writer, 67; Mr David Winnick MP, 65.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Philip Doddridge, non-conformist minister, 1702; Charles-Joseph Messier, astronomer, 1730; George Morland, painter, 1763; William Thomson, first Baron Kelvin, physicist and inventor, 1824; Pearl Sydenstricker Buck, novelist, 1892; Willy Messerschmitt, aircraft designer, 1898; Peter Lorre (Laszlo Lowenstein), actor, 1904; Laurie Lee, poet and writer, 1914; Deaths: Julian the Apostate, Roman Emperor, died of wounds 363; Francisco Pizarro, conqueror of Peru, assassinated 1541; Sir Richard Fanshawe, diplomat, translator and poet, 1666; The Rev Gilbert White, naturalist and cleric, 1793; Joseph-Michel Montgolfier.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Colin Wiggington, "Mysteries (iv): Van Dyck, *The Bolbi Children*", 1pm.

Victoria and Albert Museum: Francis Pugh, "Art Nouveau, France 1900", 2pm.

Wallace Collection, London W1: Robert Wenley, "19th-century Collectors: British collectors", 1pm.

LUNCHEONS

Mid-Atlantic Club/English-Speaking Union: The Japanese Ambassador, Mr Sadayuki Hayashi, was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon held yesterday by the Mid-Atlantic Club at the English-Speaking Union, London W1. He spoke on "UK-Japan Relations". Lord Ezra, Chairman, Energy and Technical Services, took the chair.

RECEPTIONS

HM Government: Mrs Barbara Roche MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Small Firms, Trade and Industry, was the host at a reception held yesterday at Lancaster House, London SW1, on the occasion of the Business in the Community 1998 Awards for Excellence in Corporate Community Investment.

DINNERS

HM Government: Mr George Robertson, Secretary of State for Defence, was the host at a dinner given yesterday evening at Admiralty House, London SW1, in honour of Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad Al-Thani, the heir apparent of the state of Qatar.

HMS Victory: Admiral Sir John Brigstocke, Second Sea Lord and Commander-in-Chief Naval Home

Command, and Lady Brigstocke, were the hosts at a dinner held yesterday evening in HMS Victory, at Portsmouth Naval Base. Among those present were:

The Hon William and Mrs Waldegrave; Mr Andrew Cull, Director and Vice-President, British American Pharamaceuticals Europe; and Mrs Carol Professor Robert and Mrs O'Neill; Mr and Mrs John Crosby; Mr and Mrs John Mousley; Mr and Mrs Richard Swynne.

GLAZIERS' COMPANY

Mr G.C. Bond, Master, Worshipful Company of Glaziers, received members of the court and their guests at the St Peter's Day Quarter Court dinner held yesterday evening at Glaziers' Hall, London SE1. Among those present were:

Professor Flavia Seveno; Dr Paul A. Kinnear; Mr M. Robson; Miss Lager Brusell, Council of the Royal Norwegian Embassy.

COUNINGSBY CLUB

Lord Parkinson was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of the Couningsby Club held yesterday evening at the Carlton Club, London SW1. Mr Peter Brooke MP presided.

ATLANTIC COUNCIL

Mrs Maria Kleimas, Editor of *Lotto*, was the guest speaker at an Atlantic Council Forum Briefing held yesterday at Atlantic House, London SW1. Mr Alan Lee Williams, Director, presided.

SYNAGOGUE SERVICES

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 9.08pm.

United Synagogues 0181-343 8888; Federation of Synagogues: 0181-202 2263; Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues: 0171-808 1000; Reform Synagogue of Great Britain: 0181-345 4731; Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congregation: 0171-285 2572; New London Synagogue (Masorti): 0171-322 1028.

'Last act' jurisdiction rule still stands

FRIDAY LAW REPORT

26 JUNE 1998

Regina v Manning

Court of Appeal

(*Criminal Division*)

(Lord Justice Buxton,

Mr Justice Wright and

Mr Justice David Steel)

24 June 1998

valuable security under section 20(2) of the Act, the *actus reus* of those offences having been completed in Greece.

Alastair Malcolm QC (Registrar of Criminal Appeals) for the appellant; Warwick McKinnon (Crown Prosecution Service) for the Crown.

In recent years, however, an alternative approach, the "comity theory", based on observations of Lord Diplock in *Treacy v DPP* [1971] 1 All ER 110, had been abandoned, and had been adopted in *R v Smith* (Wallace Duncan) [1996] 2 Cr App R 1.

Although in terms of reason and policy it would be highly desirable to accept the comity theory as a rule of jurisdiction, the court was bound by the decisions in *R v Horden* [1982] 1 All ER 286, *R v Beck* [1985] 1 All ER 571 and *R v Naqayelakar* [1987] 1 All ER 650 to apply the "last act" rule, and the decision in *Smith* could not stand.

Accordingly, the Crown Court had no jurisdiction to try the appellant on the counts under section 20(2), and his convictions on those counts would be quashed.

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

WORDS

WILLIAM HARTSTON

Non-standard adj.

ly accepted". Using *protagonist* to mean "champion of a cause" is merely "non-standard".

Standard English is, according to *Chambers*, "generally shunned by linguists". Is "*Standard English*" a non-standard use of the word "standard"?

broad spectrum of shades ranging from "typical, average, unexceptional" to "accepted as supremely authoritative".

For this reason, the term *Standard English* is, according to *Chambers*, "generally shunned by linguists". Is "*Standard English*" a non-standard use of the word "standard"?

End of the Bruce and Demi show

The picture-perfect marriage that Demi Moore and Bruce Willis presented to the world has ended. Was it professional rivalry, a clash of egos or something darker – the ghosts of their childhoods returning to haunt them? And should we care? By Jasper Rees

The Hollywood watchers who comprise most of the First World's population were yesterday alerted to the announcement of a split in Tinseltown. Another one. The news that Bruce Willis and Demi Moore are to go their separate ways after ten years will be met with mixed emotions.

On the one hand there will be some fairly ill-suppressed hilarity. On the other hand there will be much heavy-duty gloating. There will not, however, be a lot of sympathy for a couple who have marketed an image of matrimonial harmony that reeked at self-satisfaction.

Paul Bloch, a spokesman for Willis, issued a statement saying: "Bruce Willis and Demi Moore have announced they are ending their marriage after 11 years. They were married on November 21 1987."

Friends told the New York papers that the couple had been living apart for months due to their conflicting film schedules. There was also said to be marital strain due to Moore's relentless career climb and Willis' "wandering eye".

Supermarket tabloids in recent weeks suggested the marriage was on its deathbed and hinted at a reported romance between Moore and Brad Pitt. In March, the Australian celebrity magazine *New Idea* apologised for a 1997 article suggesting the marriage was not in good shape.

Rumours of an impending rift at first met with flat denial. The problem with flat denials is that ordinary punters are disinclined to believe them. The medicine doesn't work. When Richard Gere and Cindy Crawford took out a full-page advertisement in the *New York Times* to reaffirm the strength of their devotion to each other, the world simply refused to believe them and they were separated soon afterwards. Miss Crawford recently remarried on a beach in the Bahamas.

The Bruce-Demi split is much bigger than the Gere-Crawford divorce. At least in America it will have as much significance as Charles and Di: it will knock the separation at Woody and Mia into a cocked hat. And the reason is sim-

ple. It's rare, in a separation between two A-list celebrities, that no one feels inclined to take sides. In separating from each other, Willis and Moore are uniting everyone else.

For all of the 1990s the Willises seem to have dedicated themselves to the task of brandishing their unity even as they nurtured their individuality – he in the *Die Hard* trilogy in which he emerges triumphant even as his body is beaten comically to a pulp; she in films in which she has tended to use her body as a commodity. In many ways they were made for each other: they both endured deprivation in their childhood.

His was a blue-collar upbringing; hers was an itinerant one. It was perfectly understandable that they should wish to flout their success as a family in the world's face. His father was a welder who divorced when Willis was 16. Her father was a man who later turned out not to be. A travelling salesman, he committed suicide when Demi (nee Demitrial) was 17, two years after he was separated from Demi's alcoholic mother.

Moore already had one failed marriage on her CV, to a British musician, from which she got her surname. It was announced a couple of years ago that technically she shouldn't be allowed to use the name on documents, because her first husband turned out to be already married.

Together they made babies, and gave them names like Rumer, Scout and – almost normal, this one – Tallulah. The children were co-opted into the pictorials, most startingly in 1991, when Moore showed off a child when it was still in vitro.

The set of pictures by Annie Leibovitz, the chief iconographer at *Vanity Fair*, frankly depicted a woman's naked body at full term. There was a huge media stink about it, but it was a thoroughly affirmative move which did a great deal to break down medieval taboos about pregnancy. But all the same, it set people wondering.

Moore later admitted that she and the magazine used each other in equal portions. It was a publicity stunt. A year later she was back on the cover of *Vanity Fair* as the human canvas for a body painting. She was wearing the image of a pin-



stripe suit on her naked (as yet unsiliconed) form. It was doubtless a clever statement about sexual politics, but there was also a potent whiff of here goes Demi again.

Willis and Moore called each other momma and daddy and talked in interviews about the joys of parenting. Last year they did a fashion shoot for *Donna Karan* which presented a smooth sheen at marital success. But they also crammed their family home with a referee at staff.

Not just personal assistants and an army of nannies, but also a body trainer, bodyguards, busybodies galore who attended to their every demand. The only thing Demi didn't have was a body double. She practised stripping for three months to make *Striptease*. She did all her own stunts in *G.I. Jane*. (And still they stiffed.)

In the putting people's backs up department it was Willis, to be fair, who had a head start. He came into the marriage on the back of television fame achieved by playing a private detective in *Moonlighting* who was perhaps the smuggest character in entertainment history. Moore, by contrast, was the good guy, the star of the weepy blockbuster *Ghost* and a couple of blameless *Brat Pack* movies.

The backlash really got underway once More thought she had disproved the Hollywood dictum that actresses aren't box office. After the success of *Indecent Proposal* and *Disclosure*, she wrested for herself a deal that got her financial parity with the action heroes.

The irony was that she was handsomely paid for precisely the films that reconfirmed the dictum. *The Scarlet Letter* bombed. *Striptease*, in which Rumer played her daughter, was so bad it had to be remastered as a comedy, and *G.I. Jane* was only just pipped by Kevin Costner's *The Postman* at the antedote Oscar ceremony for this year's Golden Raspberry award. The last two were roles about empowerment, about a woman's ability to slug it out in man's world.

While not going quite so spectacularly belly up, Willis' film career could do with a bump. When he came to Britain to make the sci-fi movie *The Fifth Element*, he was said to be demoralised by the wearying

prospect at playing yet another action hero, and told one co-star of his desire to get back to the theatre.

History will conclude that Willis' extraordinary success put intolerable pressure on the very marriage that made them so marketable. One person could see it coming more than any other. When Moore was required by a director to get herself off the bottle, she went through detox in a jiffy. Years later she tried to get her mother onto the same programme, but she discharged herself halfway through.

Moore reportedly broke off contact, and in recent years her mother has taken to making Cassandra-like statements in the press. One damnation at her daughter went thus: "She's forgotten the world she grew up in and the people she grew up with. I see all the signs of a marriage in trouble."

Moore's publicist Pat Kingsley did not say whether the couple would be seeking a divorce, or who would retain custody of their three daughters. One source said the couple might file for divorce in Idaho, where they own a 40 acre property and a movie theatre, which Willis restored. Idaho divorce laws are said to be more equitable than California.

Aside from rumors of a split, the couple have been fighting fires on other fronts. In February they were sued by a former nanny, Kim Tamashii, who claimed they exploited her. She alleges "They showed malice to the children" and that she was "shamelessly exploited and abused by them".

Willis and Moore were more than a marriage, they were an industry. They were partners in the Planet Hollywood restaurant chain, along with Arnold Schwarzenegger, Whoopi Goldberg and Sylvester Stallone. Referring to her itinerant childhood, in which she changed schools with unsettling frequency,

Moore once said that "Everything has got to be disposable. Don't get too attached, because you've got to be able to walk away from it". That lesson will never be more useful.

THIS WEEK IN THE SEVEN-SECTION

INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY



A life less ordinary

Martha's ashes were strewn on the Thames ... 'Was it an outgoing tide?' I asked her stepson. 'Oh God,' he said, 'I hope so'

Nicholas Shakespeare remembers Martha Gellhorn, one of the century's greatest reporters and most colourful characters

What happens when gay men cross the great sexuality divide and dare to go straight? By Michael Collins

Into a different closet

THE LATEST cinematic outing for Friends star Jennifer Aniston, *The Object Of My Affection*, casts her as a heterosexual woman falling for her male, homosexual best friend. Her love remains unrequited. She will never sleep with him, but whenever she wants to shop, he's her man.

As Hollywood has only recently brought gay co-stars out of the celluloid closet, we can hardly expect them to comprehend the prospect of a homosexual character with a happy heterosexual ending. But how would it be if the girl did get the guy in the end? And not simply in the manner which someone described W Somerset Maugham's switching of sexual allegiances: "(he) has no fear of vaginal teeth – he just simply shut his eyes and thought of Capri".

In the current climate, this would be the love that dare not speak its name. If a gay man goes straight it is unclear whether it's a way of 'going in' or another form of 'coming out'. But it's guaranteed to incite certain gay comrades and confuse straight ones. Particularly now that the liberal male heart has embraced gays the way it previously welcomed blacks into the fold, with all the subtlety of the Lenny Bruce joke about 'how to relax your coloured friend at parties'. How would the liberal lad accommodate another minority? Who would be the role model be?

There is of course, Albert Square's Tony Hills, who has slipped from the arms of Simon the stallholder into those of Theresa from the Trattoria. Randomly accessing the recent past, we find two examples from pop and poetry. There's Tom Robinson, who informed the racks of *Our Price* that he was "glad to be gay" when punk and protest were in the air. These days he's rumoured to



Aniston falls for her gay best friend Paul Rudd in *The Object of My Affection*

have a girlfriend and a child in tow.

Stephen Spender once said that many men are uncertain of their sexuality until their late twenties. After the homosexual relationships of his youth he settled down to marriage and fatherhood.

When the series *Gay Time TV* featured a group of gay men who had been, or were being, straightened out by a team of over-zealous Christians, it was justifiably ridiculed.

But when a gay man crosses sexuality's wide divide into the other camp, all hell breaks loose among his former peers.

The camp cries are akin to those that greeted the news that David Bowie had lost his touch when he went hetero and made *Hercules*.

Gay men become like Jewish mothers on hearing their son is dating a gentile. The outraged reactions are mostly shrill squeals from gay cam-

paigners who have spent years clocking up the numbers.

The gay man going straight is viewed on a par with Dorothy Gale leaving the technicolour world of Emerald City, for the monochrome home of traditional family life. And if that seems extreme, imagine if Elton were to hand in his fancy dress and return to Renata.

Sexuality is still seen in either black or white. It's Arthur or Martha and anyone who oscillates wildly between the two can find themselves lightly ostracised by the inversion.

Meanwhile, the lifestyles of transvestism and drag get the green light, and sadomasochism is allowed its ac-

countrments. Whilst back at the Millennium Dome New Labour proffers a larger than life body with no sex to represent the race into the millennium. But a human without genitals is like a minister without portfolio.

Perhaps for those for whom sexuality is protean rather than fixed, Gore Vidal puts it best: "Homosexual" is an adjective, not a noun descriptive of a human being."

This appears to be the underlying theme of the controversial new ad for Impulse perfume. Heralded as the first to depict a gay and happy ending, the boy does get the boy but there is a twist in the tale. The man makes eye contact with a woman, suggesting that acting on impulse, he could go either way.

The sentiment echoes that of the writer Phil Mullen, putting the case for a new, multi-sexuality in *The Gay Alternative* way back in 1974. "Now that we're finally learning that gay is good, we'll have to start learning that gay isn't good enough," he wrote. "Some of us will obviously be able to make more progress in this area than others."

The popular view
of women in
organised crime
is of gangsters'
molls, ignorant
of 'the business'.

The reality, as
the authorities
are discovering,
is very different.

By Clare
Longrigg

Last week Marisa Merico, 27, daughter of an Italian Mafia boss and an English mother, was released from prison in Italy after serving 16 months of a six-year sentence for money laundering. Marisa had spent three years in Durham prison before being extradited to Italy. "They waited until the morning of her birthday to do it; they did that on purpose, the bastards," said her mother, Patricia Di Giovine, who lives in Blackpool and has been looking after Marisa's daughter Lara. Patricia was tried with her daughter four years ago, but was acquitted of any Mafia association. She recently needed to undergo heart surgery, as a result of stress.

In prison, Marisa was considered an escape risk: "When she went to the toilet they had three guards outside the door; and there wasn't even a window. They thought her father was going to come and pick her up in a helicopter."

The prison service's fears were not entirely unfounded. Emilio Di Giovine, Marisa's father, is a convicted drug and arms trafficker for the Calabrian Mafia, the Ndrangheta. He became notorious after a dramatic escape from a Portuguese prison, when his gang used ground-to-air missiles to blast him out of jail, and picked him up by helicopter.

Emilio Di Giovine was the eldest son of a Calabrian crime family that moved to Milan and took control of the heroin trade in one part of the city. But it was his mother who masterminded the family's operations. Under her leadership, her 12 children made millions to fund the clan in the long-running Calabrian Mafia wars.

Blackpool-born Patricia Reilly met Emilio Di Giovine one summer in the Seventies, while she was on holiday. They married, and Patricia travelled frequently to Italy to visit Emilio's family. Soon after their daughter was born, Emilio ran off with his 19-year-old mistress. When he later dumped the mistress, the two women became friends. Patricia brought her daughter home and raised her in Blackpool. Despite this history, Patricia expresses no bitterness towards Emilio – she stayed in contact with the Di Giovine family, and Marisa spent a lot of time as a teenager in Milan with her father's extended family.

In 1993, one of Emilio's sisters was arrested in northern Italy after being found in possession of 1,000 tablets of ecstasy. Rita Di Giovine had been working for the family since she was 12, when she was taken out of school to help her parents to unpack cocaine hidden in the panels of imported cars, and to stuff parcels of heroin into bottles of shampoo. By the age of 33, Rita had three children by different fathers;



Marisa Merico in happier times, before being convicted of laundering dirty money for the Mafia

Mummy runs the Mob

she had been in jail several times herself and had been working for her brothers, transporting large sums of cash and quantities of drugs. Part of her job was to bribe local police to overlook the family's activities, and in some cases to recruit them, enlisting them to give the family information on any investigations or imminent arrests.

Rita had begun dealing heroin for the family when he was 15, and himself became an addict. By the time she was arrested, Rita had had enough. Exhausted and angry with her brothers, mired in debt and addicted to amphetamines, she decided that rather than carry on working for the family business, she would destroy it.

Soon after her arrest in March 1993, Rita Di Giovine agreed to give evidence against her family in return for state protection. Over the following months, police picked up her brothers, her mother and stepfather, her son, and her ex-husband.

Eventually the trial led to England, to Patricia Di Giovine and her daughter Marisa, who were arrested and charged with laundering money for the Mafia. Marisa had been apprehended after making a series of deposits in a London bank, and putting in a bid for a massive house in Yorkshire.

Marisa was given four years.

Speaking from prison in northern Italy, she told a Channel 5 documentary team: "I didn't set out to clean money, you know. I just, my father asked me to do something and I would. He'd say, 'well, here's an apartment, I want this, I want you to have this in your name', and I'd go and sign with the lawyer."

Rita claimed that, contrary to popular belief, the Italian Mafia employs many women in active roles. In an interview, she said, "My mother was the

she does acknowledge that the image of women as silent and obedient is false. "It is a well known fact that women have a lot of influence over men in a lot of ways. Behind every powerful man there is a woman that's helping them."

Rita Di Giovine's testimony revealed that, contrary to popular belief, the Italian Mafia employs many women in active roles. In an interview, she said, "My mother was the

be home to the most traditional and chauvinist Mafia – and charged with running Mafia enterprises.

State witnesses such as Rita Di Giovine have shown that women not only knew what went on inside organised crime families, but took an active role, getting involved in everything from organising a prison break-out to ordering hits.

The belief that women were not involved in organised crime was

reference work on the Italian-American Mafia. Aspiring mafiosi, increasingly remote from their cultural roots, watch Mafia movies for guidance on how to behave. A US policeman has said that every time he raids a Mafia house, he finds a full shelf of Mafia movies on video.

Puzo's account of women in criminal circles was of sexually voracious, greedy harridans, who have no understanding of Mafia politics. Interestingly, the author recently revealed that he had based the character of Don Vito Corleone on his mother: "Whenever the Godfather opened his mouth, in my own mind I heard the voice of my mother. I heard her wisdom, her ruthlessness, and her unconquerable love for her family and for life itself, qualities not valued in women at the time. The Don's courage and loyalty came from her; his humanity came from her." Stirring words, but the damage was done: the distorted image of Mafia women in *The Godfather* informed popular prejudice for years.

It was not until Italian law offered state witnesses protection that the true extent of women's role in organised crime emerged. Rita Di Giovine is not the only woman to have blown apart the Mafia's cover of silence. Since 1990, a series of Italian women have agreed to give

evidence against the Mafia clans in return for protection and the chance of a new start in life under a secret identity. One young Sicilian widow and state witness, Piera Aiello, said: "The wives of mafiosi always know everything. If they were to talk, it would be end of Cosa Nostra." Now that the judiciary is waking up to the idea that women play an active role in organised crime, these defectors are becoming a key weapon in the fight against the Mafia.

The Di Giovine family, a massively successful crime syndicate, was devastated by Rita's betrayal. During the trial, her mother screamed abuse at her across the courtroom and called her a liar. Patricia describes her sister-in-law as a thief who popped slimming pills and slept around. She still wants to know why Rita turned against them. "I dreamed about her the other day. I dreamt I was with her in a car," she said. "I wanted to ask her why she did it, why she stopped everybody. There were stickers all over the car windows, so many she could hardly see out. Then I realised she had the stickers so she could hide behind them, so nobody could see her."

Mafia Women, Channel 5, 28 June, 7pm. *Mafia Women* by Clare Longrigg is published by Vintage on 2 July, priced £6.99.

BUILD YOUR OWN LIBRARY

3: STEPHEN VENABLES ON MOUNTAINEERING

'After all, big hills are the real heroes'

THE LITERATURE of mountaineering is a Himalaya of its own. Many of the finest pioneer climbers were as addicted to book-writing as they were to the undertaking of memorable exploits on rock and snow.

As their stirring narratives of first ascents and fearful falls were devoured by younger readers, future generations of author-mountainaineers were stirred and emboldened to emulate their heroes. So, more climbers and more books. And the shelves are still growing, ever longer and higher, like the ramparts of Everest.

Stephen Venables remembers Kurt Diemberger's *Summits and Secrets* (Hodder & Stoughton, out of print) as the book that sparked his climbing ambitions, when he was just 17. "It's an account of Diemberger's early career, and the writing has a wonderfully youthful and exuberant quality. He rush-

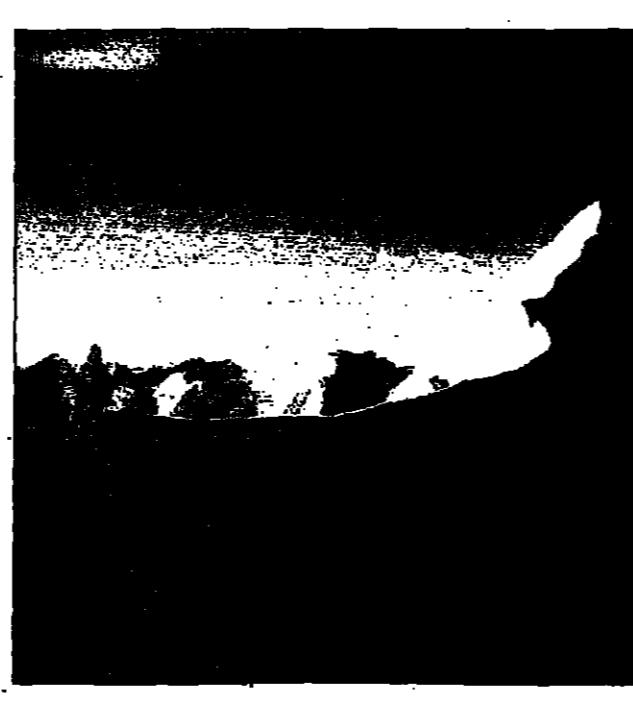
es on from one climb to the next, full of energy and optimism.

"But it was his ascent of the North Face of the Eiger that fired me up. He made a wrong turn up the Exit Cracks, and had to retreat again to find the right route.

"This was the first book that made me fully aware of the Eiger, although I didn't set foot on it myself for another 15 years. It has that sense of menace and the unknown, the fear and the exhilaration of meeting head on, and winning."

Venables found more early inspiration in the older classics of the genre, such as Winthrop Young's *On High Hills: Memories of the Alps* (Metheun, out of print). "He was the last of the Victorian pioneers, and his prose is very stylish and high-flown. But he makes you laugh all the same."

In Bill Tilman he found an



other writer who knew how to salt his narrative with wit. "He has a dry-as-dust sense of humour. His first ascent of Nanda Devi, without fixed ropes, was one of the great climbing achievements (H.W. Tilman, *The Seven Mountain Treks* Books, £18.99) but he pokes gentle fun at his companion Neil Odell all the way up, and then at the summit he writes: 'I believe we so far forgot ourselves as to shake hands.'

The life of Tilman's famous contemporary Eric Shipton also intrigues Venables. "He is very lucid and likeable on the page – although never as funny as Tilman. But in life he was a bit of misfit, a very single-minded man who followed his own path. He wrote two fine autobiographies: the second, quoting Tennyson in the title, is *The Untrodden World* (Hodder & Stoughton, out of print).

His books, like Tilman's, are not just about climbing."

Many climbers' lives, alas, are too short for the remembrance of things past. Venables regrets the loss of three such men, as writers, and as mountaineers. One is the Scottish doctor Tom Patey, survived by his collected articles in *One Man's Mountains* (£8.99 Canongate).

There's a particularly hilarious account of his climbing the Eiger with Don Whillans. He is taken aback to find an old boot sitting high up on a ledge. Whillans, deadpan, just tells him to have a look inside it.

Patey died in a fall from a sea-stack in 1970. Peter Boardman and Joe Tasker disappeared together in 1982, high on the pinnacles of Everest's North-East Ridge. Tasker was already well-known to his readers, particularly for *Savage Arena* (Metheun £4.99). Board-

man's *Sacred Summits* (in the Boardman-Tasker Omnibus, The Mountaineers Books, USA, US\$35) was published posthumously.

In a single year Boardman climbed on Carstensz Pyramid in New Guinea, did the third ascent of Kanchenjunga, and then the first ascent of the South Summit of Gauri Shankar. But somewhere in all the thrill and action and onward movement, there is a fine and contemplative writer.

Venables makes no claims to literature for his last selection – Chris Bonington's *I Chose To Climb* (Gollancz £5.99). Venables will be returning to the mountain this autumn, leading an anniversary trek to the Kangchen Face base camp. Many of these titles can be found at the Internet bookshop, Mountain Books at www.lkhsya.co.uk/Mountain-books/. Interview by WILLIAM GREEN

Where there's a quill there's a way

A recent rich find of dinosaur fossils in China is casting new, if confusing, light on the evolution of flight. By Pat Shipman

PALÆONTOLOGISTS, WHO study fossils for a living, have got into an unseemly flap over the discovery of six stunning specimens of early bird-like dinosaurs from Shetian in China. These fossils, which went on public display in Washington DC this week, hold the key to one of the biggest mysteries in evolution - how did birds take to the air and fly?

Despite years of study, the questions seem as insurmountable as ever.

- Did birds conquer the air from the ground up or the trees down?
- How could flight evolve at all, since half-flying is obviously dangerous?
- What good is part of a wing or a single feather?
- Are birds simply advanced dinosaurs who took to the skies - or are they descendants of some earlier, more general reptile?

Controversy began in 1861, when the first fossil skeleton of *Archaeopteryx* was discovered in the Solnhofen limestone of Germany two years after Charles Darwin published *Origin of Species*. This gorgeous half-bird, half-reptile is 150 million years old and yet has feathered wings, the sin qua non of birds.

The feathers themselves have a modern structure, with a quill or rachis dividing the feather into two unequal vanes for aerodynamic efficiency. But *Archaeopteryx* is not wholly bird-like; it has three wickedly clawed fingers on each wing, a long, bony, reptilian tail, toothy jaws, and reptilian shoulders that could not flap its wings in a modern fashion.

Dozens of studies have focused on the seven known partial skeletons of *Archaeopteryx*; dozens of clever scientists have theorized, argued, and theorized yet again about how bird flight evolved. The Solnhofen site has been key because of the extraordinary preservation of its fossils. Not only is there *Archaeopteryx*, there are beetles, fish, crabs, dragonflies, jellyfish, crocodiles, plesiosaurs, small dinosaurs, pterodactyls complete with impressions of their skin wings, many kinds of plants, leaves, ferns, and succulents, and much more. Solnhofen is the clearest window we have into the world of 150 million years ago.

Now Shetian, a site in Liaoning province in northeastern China, is beginning to rival Solnhofen in importance. The Shetian fossils are older than 120 million years (not as ancient as Solnhofen's fossils) but they have proven as pivotal to the debates.



An artist's impression of *Confuciusornis sanctus*, the "sacred Confucius bird"

Sono Kozuhiko / Scientific American

The Shetian frenzy began in 1994, when a peasant farmer discovered a beautifully-preserved fossil bird. Called *Confuciusornis sanctus* — the sacred Confucius-bird — this specimen has small feathered wings, the earliest known beak, and a pygostyle (the reduced bony tail of

modern birds). *Confuciusornis* flew much more adeptly than *Archaeopteryx* and, like many modern birds and some dinosaurs, nested in colonies. Male specimens show a pair of elongated tail feathers, fabulous equipment for aerial mating displays. But *Confuciusornis* still

has clawed fingers on each feathered "hand" and other archaic features. In 1996, Shetian fossils really shook things up in the scientific world. That year saw the discovery of the first "feathered dinosaur" specimen, *Sinosauropelta prima* ("first Chinese dinosaur-wing") was

a small (one metre long), fast, two-legged theropod dinosaur. Inside the rib cage of one specimen is a pair of eggs, ready for laying; in the stomach of another are the bony remains of a small mammal, its last meal. And there were feather-like fibres or bristles of some kind running along

the last month, news has emerged that flares have a profound effect on the Sun itself. Just as the blast from a rocket engine exacts its toll on the launch pad, so the backlash from a flare strikes back at the Sun — to cause sunquakes.

This discovery, made by the SOHO satellite working with another satellite

sensitive to gamma rays, puts earthquakes firmly in the shade. A recent flare-triggered sunquake was

40,000 times more powerful than the earthquake that devastated San Francisco in 1906. The flare raised seismic waves two miles high, which travelled at

250,000 miles an hour across the surface. The sound of the quake on the Sun must have been

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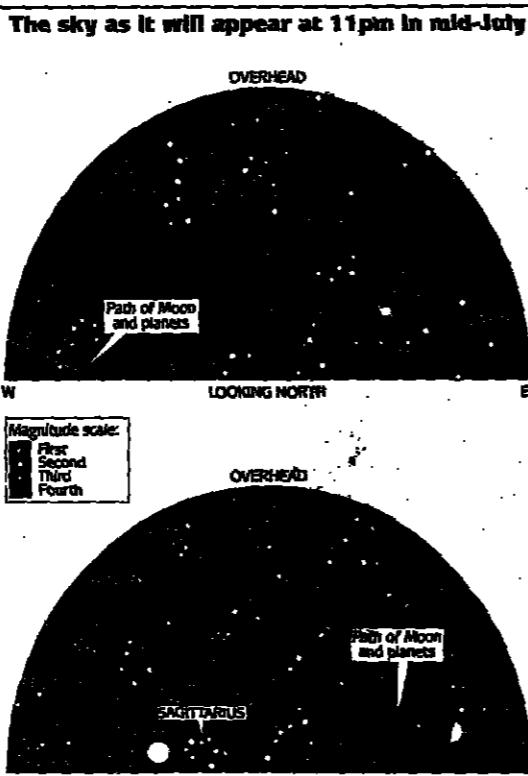
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STARS AND PLANETS: JULY



MIDSUMMER'S DAY has focused attention on our local star — and whether you're a druid or a

Wimbledon fan, you can't ignore it. But how well do we understand the Sun? Its brilliant but bland surface has long hidden its secrets. In the past couple of years, astronomers have begun to understand what makes the Sun tick — and explode — thanks to the ever-vigilant satellite SOHO, the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory. This joint mission of ESA and NASA was launched in 1995.

SOHO's specialised telescopes observe the Sun's faint outer atmosphere, the corona. They have followed its ever-changing shape, and revealed huge sections of it lifting off the Sun altogether, and blasting outwards into space. These "coronal mass ejections" rank among the mightiest of the Sun's storms, and are probably responsible for some of the worst damage the Sun has inflicted on the Earth — disabling satellites in orbit and causing extensive power cuts.

One of the biggest mysteries about the corona is why it is hundreds of times hotter than the Sun's surface. Now SOHO may have found the answer: a constantly-moving "magnetic carpet" at the corona's base.

Innumerable thin loops of magnetic flux appear through the Sun's surface, move, break up and disappear again in millions of continuous short-circuits. In one day, these titanic sparks release as much energy as the United

States consumes in 100 years — more than enough to heat the Sun's corona to a million degrees.

Magnetism is the driving force behind the Sun's "weather". Its most obvious manifestation is a rash of dark spots on the Sun's surface, each up to 100,000 miles across.

If you could stand on a sunspot and look up into the Sun's atmosphere, you'd see that it is at the

base of a towering edifice of magnetism — an "active region". Hot gases trace the structure of this magnetic tower. The most violent goings-on take place at the top of the active region. Here, in the corona, vast magnetic loops are carrying millions of amperes of current.

They suddenly connect and short-circuit, in the most explosive outbursts in the Solar System. These solar

flares blast highly energetic particles, X-rays and gamma rays into space.

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Sober, but still sensational

She's been branded an exhibitionist and a drunkard, but Tracey Emin's early paintings reveal a more solemn nature.

Michael Glover stumbled across the evidence

It was towards the end of a sun-struck afternoon in a gardener's cottage in the Brecon Beacons, and I was standing in the attic studio of the painter, Robert McDonald. A major retrospective of his work had just closed at the Brecon Museum, and he was showing me a selection from some of the stages of his development: McDonald the young painter under the jazzy influence of abstract expressionism; McDonald the print-making interpreter of Aboriginal myth; McDonald, the quiet painter of rural scenes somewhat in the tender, naive manner of David Jones or even Dubuffet. Can you guess who this one's by? he said, pulling something quite different from another portfolio. I couldn't. It was a print of an urban harbour scene, with boats coming and going, executed in graphite and painted over in Gouache or watercolour; vigorous, expressive, fanciful, with great boldness and panache. A very fluid, painterly sort of painting. Its title, written in pencil, said "Istanbul", and you could easily recognise certain details. The date was 1988.

The painter? Tracey Emin. I told him that this was so different from the Tracey Emin of popular myth: the Tracey Emin who had rolled on drunk during last year's Turner Prize discussion and with a ferocious wag of her finger, slagged off one and all: the Tracey Emin whose seemingly insatiable appetite for self-promotion had led her to present the most intimate details of her private life as gifts to the nation. Could this painting be by one and the same person?

Then he showed me others from slightly earlier - small woodcuts and linocuts, all gloom and pessimism, heavily influenced by Klimt, Munch, Kirchner and other German Expressionists; a larger hand-coloured woodcut printed on the linen and stretched between two pieces of crudely carved wood called "The Black Horse". Almost all of them were signed in the same way: "Miss T K Emin". How had he come by them?

In 1984 McDonald was a part-time lecturer at Maidstone College of Art, and Emin was one of his BA Fine Art students. She was the most remarkable student he'd ever taught - energetic, enthusiastic, and with a capacity to produce vast quantities of work. She was producing enormous numbers of prints: woodcuts and linocuts by the hundreds, all bleak monotypes, and many with the same stark and obsessive subject matter as the pieces he was now showing me: the female nude, hunched or curled foetus-like, violated. "There was a powerful obsession with death," he commented. "The females always looked brutalised, sexually agonised.

In the red linocut that she produced as a poster for a student show, a skeleton sits beside a hunched female figure, leering, mocking, biding its time. Death always has time to spare. This was the linocut that had hung on the office wall during the years of Noel

Her pieces were primly signed: Miss T K Emin. She was by no means prim in her art or her behaviour, though

Machin, the head of Liberal Studies who had liked and encouraged Emin so much. After his death, it was thrown into a bin because his successor didn't value it. Bob McDonald plucked the treasured thing out again.

All these pieces are signed in that same rather prim way: Miss T K Emin. She was by no means prim in her art or her behaviour, though. The area where she did her work was certainly off the beaten track: the subject of the infamous abortion, the subject of one of her confessional videos. It's a modest thing, hand-written, hand-drawn, on long white sheets of paper. Only the cover has an illustration - the simplest of sketch outlines. Indicative, perhaps, of her move away from expressive picture-making. This show took place in the crypt of St George's, Bloomsbury, and its title was "The

group in, performing poetry, collaborating with Billy Childish and the other Medway poets on books and pamphlets. Childish's name would find its way embroidered on to the fabric of that famous tent, produced for the Minky Manly Show in 1985, along with the names of 1,000 other gloriously exposed former lovers.

After her graduation from Maidstone, McDonald lost touch with Emin for a while. This was during her post-graduate years at the Royal College of Art - it was McDonald who had encouraged her to apply in the first place. She sent him postcards from her travels, but they didn't meet again until the end of the Eighties. By then, she had a studio in south London. When he visited, he found her poverty-stricken and unwell. He noticed a painting in her studio that was quite different from anything he'd seen before, a cityscape of Istanbul. It was surprisingly colourful - she hadn't generally used colour at Maidstone - and almost celebratory in its atmosphere. The mood of her work at Maidstone had been deeply pessimistic. Could he buy it? She was happy to sell. She needed the money. She suggested some modest amount - perhaps £10. He gave her £100 because he recognised its value immediately. But why Istanbul?

In the intervening years, Tracey Emin had been busy renewing her links with her father's side of the family. She and her father, a Turkish Cypriot, hadn't seen much of each other during her childhood. He'd been kept busy servicing another family and Tracey was mainly brought up by her mother in Margate.

McDonald then showed me the invitation to a show in 1990, the year of the infamous abortion, the subject of one of her confessional videos. It's a modest thing, hand-written, hand-drawn, on long white sheets of paper. Only the cover has an illustration - the simplest of sketch outlines. Indicative, perhaps, of her move away from expressive picture-making. This show took place in the crypt of St George's, Bloomsbury, and its title was "The



As a student, Emin produced a vast portfolio of bleak monotypes depicting brutalised, sexually agonised women

Calling of St Anthony, 1990. Fold it out and you find a long list of hand-written nouns: "Integrity, dignity, humour; teeth, hair, heart, love, temper, grip, white-cells, red-cells, self-respect, magic, coal, marbles..." Could this mark the beginning of her interest in

incorporating text? At the bottom, directly beneath the list, these words are written (a propos of St Anthony, of course): "The patron Saint of all things lost..."

I asked McDonald whether he thought Tracey Emin was herself

something of a lost soul; whether her search for attention had somehow caused her to lose her way.

"I didn't like what happened at the Turner Prize-giving, but I don't think that Tracey was entirely to blame for that. The television people must have

known she was drunk - you just had to look at her swivelling eyes to see that - and you could therefore say that they put her into a situation where she became a source of comedy. But Tracey is more than just a freak show. I think at heart she's a serious artist."

A Russian reformationist, a Gershwin tune...

NICHOLAS KENYON, Controller of Radio 3, has had some hard knocks in recent years, not least in this column, for his network's alleged lurches in the direction of *Classic FM*. But at least one innovation he may remain justifiably proud: the Sunday afternoon feature series, *Spirit of the Age*. For primarily concerned though the programme may be with early music, it is fascinating how often its investigations throw up cultural, social, political or religious issues of continuing relevance.

Last Sunday's edition, presented by the solicitous Christopher Page and intelligently produced, as ever, by Kate Bolton, took as its pretext the current exhibition in the Queen's House at Greenwich celebrating the tercentenary of the three-month visit to England in 1688 of the young Peter the Great. Peter's subsequent attempt to Europeanise Russian culture had a particular musical impact: his reforms of the Russian church led to the evolution in the late 18th and early 19th century of that

ON AIR
BAYAN NORTHCOTT

warmly chordal style of Orthodox hymnody which, sung with a generous application of vibrato, has become accepted as the authentic tradition.

What, then, of the religious opponents of Peter's reforms, the so-called Old Believers who, together with an entire earlier tradition of Orthodox chant, disappeared "into the

blue beyond", as Page's guest, that eloquent Russophile, Gerard McBurney, put it? Reconstructing such ambiguous notations of that lost tradition has not only proved musically contentious, but it was also discouraged by the Soviets on ideological grounds. In recent years, tentative attempts have been made to perform it, notably by Andrei Kotov's Moscow Sirin Choir, currently visiting this country.

Recordings heard during the programme certainly suggested an

early polyphony strikingly independent of Western ideals in its strange parallels and clashes. But, for scholarly reasons, Kotov has also encouraged his singers to adopt a non-vibrato style closer to certain Western early music groups, thus risking the ire of nationalists back home. And so it goes. Indeed, given the complexity of the scholarly, cultural and ideological issues, it is difficult to see how they could have been adequately developed - let alone so lucidly - to perform it, no

table by Andre in a format any less spurious than *Spirit of the Age*. Yet, with the current Radio 3 mania for "access", one could well imagine the planners hankering to reduce the programme to an early music magazine: this Kenyon should resist.

Curiously, Monday's relay of the Hallé Orchestra under Kent Nagano in the on-going *Invictus America* season also touched on matters musical, with a series of Gershwin show overtures. To what extent these pot-pourris represent

Gershwin's intentions and how much the initiative of his arrangers is less than clear. Yet the inclusion of a pastiche Gershwin overture for the posthumous show *My One and Only*, put together in the 1980s, strongly suggested that the glamour of those original arrangers is now a lost art. In fact, there were sufficient issues of authenticity here to fill a whole latter-day *Spirit of the Age*. Last week's "On Air" was wrongly credited to Robert Maycock. It was written by Adrian Jack

Back-seat writer

THEATRE
HOW I LEARNED TO DRIVE
DONMAR WAREHOUSE
LONDON

"confessional" school of playwriting. Vogel, however, provides a far stronger structure than usual by coupling Lil' Bit's sexual awakening to the metaphor of driving lessons.

Lil' Bit seeks solace from her redneck family in the company and car of her Uncle Bub, but from John Crowley's strongly staged opening scene it's clear that his interest is far from selfless. The car seats are far apart, but, thanks to Paul Pyant's lighting, their shadows meet disturbingly across the back wall. They are clearly some way into an incestuous relation-

Life is sweet

THEATRE
LIFEGAME
LYRIC HAMMERSMITH
LONDON

IT'S NOT easy to pass final judgement on *Lifegame*. Every night, a different guest is invited to watch and oversee improbable theatre company's instant, improvised enactment of choice moments from his or her life story. On Wednesday, it was the turn of Joanna Lumley to receive the while-you-wait dramatic treatment. What resulted was a warmhearted affair, by turns boisterously hilarious and gently moving, as her autobiographical reminiscences were vividly staged by seven indisputably talented performers.

Casting Kevin Whately as Peck must have seemed like a terrible move. Known to millions as Inspector Morse's long-suffering sidekick, he specialises in relaxed, benign warmth but his overwhelming niceness flattens the role out, and in this production Peck lacks necessary edge. That quality, however, dominates Helen McCrory's Lil' Bit. She uses anxious tension to strong effect, notably in the climactic scene where she confronts Peck. Her explosive release seems to vindicate the tension, but elsewhere her fraught physicality is overtly demonstrative; in anxiously showing us her character's emotional state she robs us of the opportunity of discerning her difficulties for ourselves. Her hard-won victory provides a triumphant close but you can't escape feeling that you've been spoonfed.

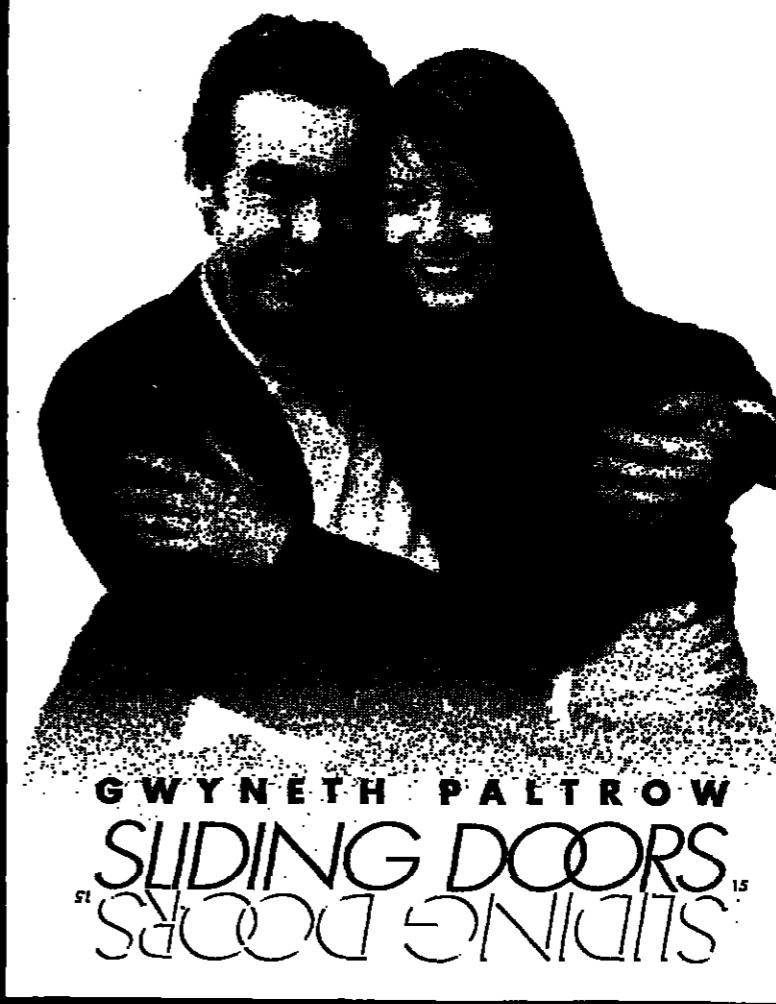
DAVID BENEDICT

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DOMINIC CAVENDISH

THE PERFECT MATCH
AND NOT A FOOTBALL IN SIGHT



GWYNETH PALTROW
SLIDING DOORS

DOORS STILL OPEN

Paul Selwyn Norton
Meg Stuart
Michael Clark
Amanda Miller
William Forsythe
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Jonathan Burrows invites five major choreographers whose work is all too rarely seen in Britain.

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Choreographer's Choice: As It Is

Bookings: 0181-741 2311. To Saturday. This review appeared in later editions of yesterday's paper

DOMINIC CAVENDISH



Little by little, piece by piece

Close by the design monstrosity that is the Elephant and Castle shopping centre, the Only Connect project has enabled young people with severe learning disabilities to conjure a mosaic wonderworld out of dereliction. By Daniel Sturgis

Beyond the hideous pink facade of the Elephant and Castle, enveloped in a noisy pall of south London exhaust fumes, lies a worn, derelict mosaic garden. Created out of the land that lies behind a row of Georgian houses, the garden is part of Cambridge House, a voluntary sector organisation set up over a century ago to alleviate the effects of poverty in Southwark and which nowadays offers a variety of services ranging from legal aid and a youth centre to groups for people with learning disabilities, social events and council meetings.

The once desolate and abandoned garden has been brilliantly brought back to life with a 50-foot mosaic depicting an underwater world. Coloured fish leap from mirrored waves on the walls. An octopus sculpture forms a mosaic rockery in one corner, while a seven-foot starfish adorns another. The combination of deep sea blues and sparkling mirrors creates a small oasis

of calm and tranquillity in this busy inner-city area.

Over 400 people a week use Cambridge House and wander through the garden. The mosaic is admired not only for its beauty but also because of its history. It was created entirely by people with severe learning disabilities under the aegis of Only Connect, one of Cambridge House's projects. Only Connect works to promote equal opportunities for people with Down's syndrome, autism, fragile-X syndrome and other severe learning disabilities. Its projects all have a dual focus: they provide a safe and exciting forum for play, education, art or sport activities, and also offering a respite for the parents and carers of people with severe learning disabilities. Other activities include holiday play schemes, after school clubs, weekend breakaways, and life skills workshops.

The mosaic garden project involved 75 children and young people with severe learning disabilities working alongside artists and volunteers trained by Only Connect to enable and support them. Creative art provides a vital means of communication for people who may have limited speech and find everyday self-expression difficult.

It is challenging but extremely rewarding process. The aim is to help individuals to express their own ideas, and the mosaic garden at Cambridge House reflects this way of working. It can be seen as a single image or a composite of many different pictures. Each participant's individual contribution can be identified: the placing of a tile, the exploration of a colour scheme, a pattern created from a particular design.

Only Connect always ensures that its arts workshops are well-resourced, and that the people taking part have an opportunity to work with high-quality materials and equipment. The garden project showed participants how sketches could lead to a finished design, how to use specialist tools like tile cutters and electric drills, and how to lay the mosaic and mix

the cement adhesive. Italian glass mosaic tiles and domestic ceramic tiles were used; much of this material was donated by London's specialist tile shops.

The garden project was awarded a Shell Better Britain Award, and financed through a variety of small trusts and charities. Its success is due to its vision and ambition: it celebrates the fact that people with learning disabilities make a valuable contribution to our way of life, and challenges the view that they are a burden on society.

Only Connect runs regular Art & Design Curriculum Support workshops at special schools supported by the London Borough of Southwark, and is committed to the use of art both as a means of expression for people with learning disabilities and as an aesthetic contribution to the wider community.

If you would like to volunteer or find out more about the work of Only Connect or Cambridge House please contact them on 0171-703 5025.

The mosaics of underwater scenes and creatures have transformed the formerly desolate garden of Cambridge House

Glyn Griffiths

Darling, how utterly Yang

E Jane Dickson marvels at the mysteries of lifestyle magazines

CHUCK OUT your chintz, bin your Bonetti. And you know what you can do with your Sottsass *Le dernier cri* in interior decorating, the cynosure of all sophisticates, is an arrangement of pigs' mandibles and fish-bones slung from your roof-pole.

It's true. I read it in *nest*, the US monthly almanac of style which has just hit British newsstands.

Alongside articles on Keith Haring's mural of "iconic dicks", the demented dabblings of The Marquess of Bath (conic breasts, mainly) and a painfully po-faced "appreciation" of Barbie's 1962 Dream House, the tree dwellings of the Asmat tribe of Indonesian New Guinea are described in breathless estate-agent's prose: "The tree houses of Amarou and Mbiamzien," we are told, "are small but seemingly more spacious thanks to the splinters of light that radiate inward, not just through the thatched roof and bark walls but also from below through the gaps in the floor..." but before you take a hatchet to your parquet, please be advised that *nest* is not intended as a yet another interiors magazine, but as "a magazine of interiors" and that *nest* wants to be read by anyone who wakes up in the morning or in the afternoon with a healthy curiosity about how others express themselves where they live."

Well strike me pink (the new black, don't you know). For someone who wakes up with a healthy curiosity as to where my shoes are in the deep litter that surrounds me, I can only look at home-style magazines - the fastest growing sector of print journalism - as a cow might gaze at the moon. Who are these people who can write in *Elle Decoration* that "the secret of modern living is in good cupboards" and mean it?

I am intrigued to learn from the same publication that black grass (G75 a root) is the only grass to be seen with (what are they going to do with all the green stuff), scared by the revelation that storage guru Dawn

Walters "styles" her house every night, and cheered by the return of stone-cladding. It's true! The favoured style statement of Jack and Vera Duckworth is back, but this time it's dead classy.

And why, when you think about it, shouldn't it be? Some must have liked it the first time around, and, as the mushrooming style-mag market shows, we now aspire to change our sofas as often as our socks, with the Conran shop bringing out a twice-yearly "collection" of "must-have pieces". For it is style journalists who feed the beast, setting trends one month and stamping on them the next.

Condé Nast's *World of Interiors*, on the other hand is the Alan Clark of the style mags, not for people who buy their own sink units. The current issue contains a sprited defence of the Lord Chancellor's renovations and a guide to the latest ceramic garden stools.

Not so, says *Living etc.* a newcomer to the middle market, lifestyle magazines might have made the buying public more aware of design in recent years, but at the end of the day, it is the consumer who chooses what to buy. *Living etc.* to be fair keeps one foot firmly on the ground, with its policy of photographing "real people in real places" and mean it?

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Finally, once you've hung laminated rose petals at your window as a twist on the beaded curtain, and trundled to the skip with your perfumed candles, you'll be needing *Feng Shui* for Modern Living magazine to make sure that your carefully edited objects are auspiciously disposed about your home. One false move, apparently, and your *chi* flies straight out the window. Post-romantic retro-chic be damned. I predict that by the autumn, the compliment every hostess will crave will be "But darling, how utterly Yang!"

THE TASTE DICTATORS			
WORDS FROM THE WISE			
ELLE DECO:	WALLPAPER:	WORLD OF INTERIORS:	FENG SHUI:
"The naked light bulb swings again. We predict the renaissance of our filament friend."	"Carpets are unhygienic. More hotel rooms should have wooden floors"	"Beware the beige. Banish all that is sad and sombre from your interior"	"Rous of horse-heads sprouting vegetable heads hints at a bizarre union of natural kingdoms"

THE MILLENNIUM COLLECTION

NO 2: 'REVEAL' SURGICAL GLOVES
DESIGNED BY BIOGEL



So far, over 200 Millennium Products have been chosen for their excellent design. Each week we will examine one of them.

A GAME with a couple of party balloons has led to the development of a product that could save the lives of hospital patients and potentially their doctors, too.

Pam and Phil Richardson, a former nurse and former university lecturer from Wales, have come up with a simple innovation to make surgical gloves change colour when punctured.

A glove punctured during an operation by a slip of the scalpel poses risks of cross-infection to both patient and doctor.

Surgeons who are carriers of hepatitis have infected

patients in this way, though rules require that they be vaccinated against it.

And, in one case, a patient in France was infected with HIV by a surgeon carrying the virus.

Surgeons are in turn at risk of being infected themselves if blood from the patient seeps into their wound.

The new surgical gloves, called Reveal, are made by Biogel. They consist of two layers of latex. The top outer layer is transparent and the inner layer is green. If the top layer is punctured, liquid is drawn between the layers by capillary action revealing the green layer beneath like a staining stain.

As soon as this appears, the surgeon can request new gloves. Sensitivity is

not a problem, according to the inventors.

Pam Richardson said: "It's an incredibly simple idea that you can demonstrate at a party with two balloons. Indeed, we discovered the principle when experimenting with toy balloons. It was then we realised its potential for surgery."

The Richardsons have found thinking up ideas in their Welsh cottage a lucrative hobby. They have patented the same system as a mail security device to indicate whether a package has been tampered with. If the material in which the package is wrapped is punctured, allowing air between the layers, it immediately changes colour.

JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH EDITOR

Surrounded by massive resin heads, Jacobean jewels and a six-foot glass unicorn horn, a south London sculptress has created something rich and strange. By Philip Hoare

Oriel the wizard of Walworth

Deep in darkest Walworth, beyond even the now departed glamour of the Labour Party headquarters, a lock-up shed with a corrugated roof hides the creation of fantastic things. Amid mugs of tea and a TV bairing *Home and Away*, resin branches are sprouting surreally from ridged trunk-like bases into effervescent twigs; composite androgynous heads stand in rows, flames or feathers shooting from their tonsures like baroque toques; and, in one corner of Oriel Harwood's studio-workshop, rises a six-foot-high clay model of a unicorn's horn, now cast in clear glass and about to grace some lucky new owner's domicile. The place is a childhood fantasy in progress. *Dungeons and Dragons* crossed with a John Galliano catwalk.

These audacious pieces - neither furniture nor ornamentation, but something in between - are not made for meek persons or clinically-Nineties interiors. They are heroic, flamboyant, unashamedly ostentatious outpourings from the creative mind of Harwood, some 15 years in the business of recreating her fantasies.

Two years ago Harwood and her partner, Stephen Calloway - he of the mid-Victorian dress sense and waxed moustaches - found two 1790 houses which had long languished as offices of a taxi firm. Calloway approached the owners and asked if they were willing to sell. The result was that the pair acquired 20 rooms, three workshops, a courtyard, and a marvellous view of one of Railtrack's less busy south London lines. Now the courtyard sprouts lilac in tubs, purple clematis jackmannii on the walls and classical acanthus by the kitchen door, while across the way the workshop is home to Oriel Harwood's cottage industry.

Strewn around this mini-estate carcasses of resin forms lie about tantalisingly bubble-wrapped ready for assembly in some new home: horned candlesticks seemingly raided from an Assyrian tomb; blank-eyed "Tessa" heads, apparent escapees from Sir John Soane's Lincoln's Inn house; chandeliers of branches and thick oak leaves moulded over frosted glass. It is an Aladdin's Cave of art-in-progress.

Having trained at Middlesex as a potter, Harwood graduated in 1982, producing at her degree show a vivid primary-coloured glazed ceramic fireplace and glistening candelabra fashioned from serpents. "And I hadn't even seen Brighton Pavilion at that point," says Oriel, whose name is as baroque as her pieces. A Crafts Council grant helped her set up a workshop in 1984, and she had her first one-woman show, Architectural Ceramics, at Burgh House, Hampstead, which announced her intention to blur the edges between architecture and applied art.

Since then her work has mutated through a series of phases: 1980s baroque to "tulipomania" Delft-inspired oversized ceramic vases constructed to hold single tulip blooms in tiered ranks. As these creations were featured in all manner of glossy magazine spreads, Harwood felt herself in danger of becoming typecast in an "Aren't they jolly?" trug-and-headscarf cliché. Instead, fate in the form of a burglary by the late Eighties sent Harwood's work through a darker phase: Jacobean jewel motifs, darkly lusted and spiky, and punk goth baroque which she likens to a film set for *The Avengers*. It was her first collection for a dealer, and Harwood was mortified when none of it sold. "I wished a rock star would buy it."



No shrinking violet - ostentatious designer Oriel Harwood stands out amongst some of her larger than life bizarre and baroque creations

Glynne Griffiths

Instead she got a commission from Nigel Coates of Coates-Branston to decorate the interior of a clubroom in Tokyo. The brief was golf and Scots Baronial: Oriel's witty reaction was to construct a fantastical fireplace with golfball and thistle motifs and a tartan glaze. The photograph of the piece in situ - a dark den within a startlingly modern exterior - looks subversively decadent for a golf club. Another room commission for a restored country house involved Strawberry Hill gothic plaster branches creeping their way up the walls and along the ceilings. "It took a thousand screws to fix them up" says Harwood, who privately imagines all sorts of disasters and confesses to breezily telling owners, "Oh, it'll be no problem!"

It vexes her that despite 15 years of considerable work, her name is not yet recognised in the business. She despairs of getting a big commission. And yet her work is gradually moving out over the world. She now sells through David Gill, whose "very Catholic tastes" encompass the 20th cen-

tury rococo/baroque/neoclassical influences on which Harwood's work draws, along with more modernistic influences. He is in the process of opening a warehouse-style showroom in Vauxhall, a massive white space which will provide a Saatchi-like setting for Harwood's work.

The scale and extravagance of her designs make them eminently suitable for movie sets, and she has already ventured into film work: Cruella de Ville's bedroom in the recent remake of *101 Dalmations* was entirely based on her designs. Her neoclassical heads are also currently being installed in Christian Dior shops world-wide.

Fey her art may seem; its construction is not. Her dusty and overstuffed studio looks like a cross between a car bodyshop and a stonemason's. Her work has become refined in its very surface: the clay models are now gouged with naturalistic channels, inspired by close-up photographs of vegetative forms. Her art is growing into something feral and neo-romantic. It is both

European and English, fantastic and surreal, and comes from a covert culture of excess, the aesthete's aesthetic offensive, flying in the face of what is considered "good taste" in an expression of flagrant escapism.

It follows a "secret history" of taste which draws on notions of otherness, a family tree of flamboyance from the 18th-century Gothic of Walpole's Strawberry Hill and Beckford's Fonthill to Wilde's "house beautiful" and Beardsley's black-and-red-painted Pimlico drawing room; from Rob-

bie Ross's Half Moon Street rooms painted "dull gold" in 1917 as a protest against the war to the Sitwells' "big heroes", says Oriel; and their Carlyle Square dining room, where green walls and grotto furniture gave visitors the feeling of being under water. Indeed, Calloway has already chronicled the style (renamed "bugger's baroque") by some 1930s wit in his magisterial tome, *Baroque Baroque*.

Modern supremos of "good taste" are anathema to Oriel and she despairs of the modern dictatorship of interiors. "I get enormously furious about Conran's influence - we're stuck with it because he has such financial clout". In the face of such cultural diktats, her declared fantasy - "I want to live in a Sicilian palace" - is tantamount to subversion, and room by room floor by floor, the couple appear to be creating their dream. Their top-floor suites are already under way: Oriel's canary yellow and gold - "an Indian theme" - with an oval bathroom laid with bronze mosaic; Calloway's twin dark green and already spot-

ted with archival prints of 18th-century *marveilleuses* and *incroyables*.

Harwood's relationship with Calloway - they met 11 years ago, and married soon after - is a battle of styles. Calloway, the performing dandy *flaneur*, documents the taste which his wife is recreating, rather more extreme manifestations. "Stephen is not adverse to the pastiche heritage stuff. I baulk at that... being that obvious. If Stephen suggests something I do exactly the opposite... we're happy at war!"

They are quite contrary creatures in their way: friends talk of wild parties in Walworth at which their host will be found attired in frockcoat and patent shoes, while his wife will be the party disco queen. Next year the pair intend to throw the definitive hedonistic millennium party. The home boys of Walworth won't know what's hit them.

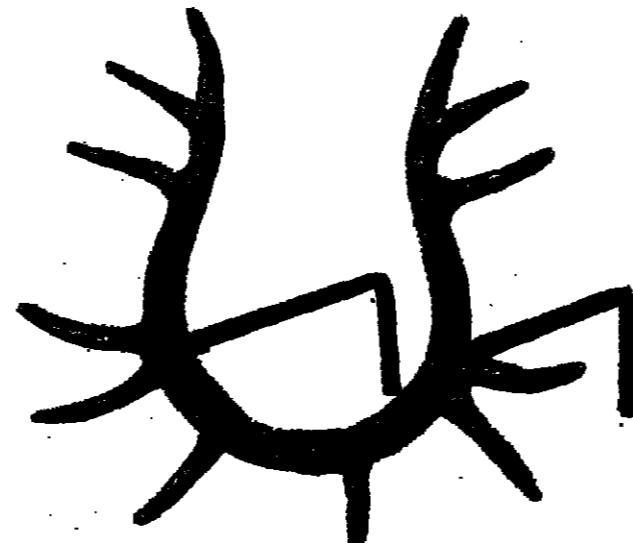
Philip Hoare's latest book, *Wilde's Last Stand: decadence, conspiracy and the First World War*, has just been published in paperback by Duckworth, £11.95



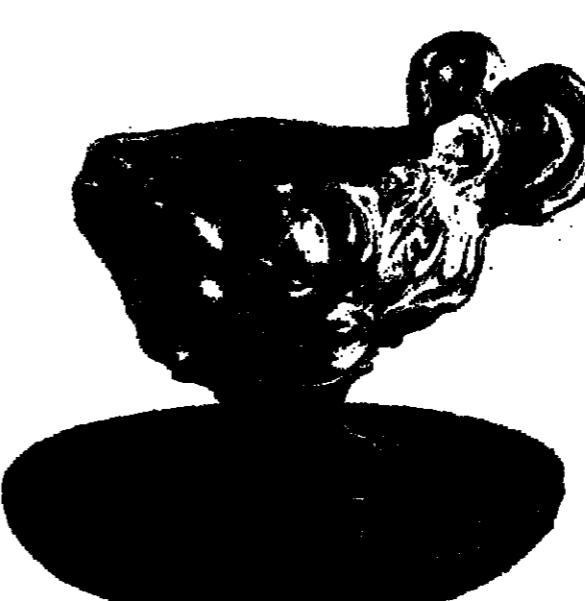
Mustafa cup and saucer, £25



Candlestick, £25



Bronze Antler fire dogs, £1250 a pair



Cloud cup and saucer, £25



Ceramic Perruque (male) vase, £295

Three Popes, some dope and a drink

DESIGN LINES

ON 20 MAY 1967 Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell were at a louche dinner-party in Tangiers when they met an opium-smoking, tongue-wearing Marquis who took them home. Joe Orton recalls the event in his diary:

"The Marquis' home was crammed with junk. It looked like a Chelsea antique shop. Rubbish from the rag-bag of 18th-century culture. Mirrors with the original glass - so cracked that to see one's self in them was to have a vision of

what one's face might look like on the Day of Judgement, the marks of the grave on it. "What shall you have to drink?" the Marquis said, leading me away from a monstrous, over-sized, headless nude statue of a man.

"Coca-Cola," I said, feeling the mere pronouncing of the word would dispel the mucky

grandeur of the past.

The Marquis looked put out. "Would you not prefer ... ?" and he said the name of some unsavoury drink to match the furniture.

We sat drinking and he told us of the Princess Marina and "What do you think of the Earl of Snowden? Do you not think he is an unhappy man?"

"The Royal Family is a nose," I said. "You don't have to put your head in it. If a man does so, he must expect to be unhappy."

"Ah, oui," said the Marquis,

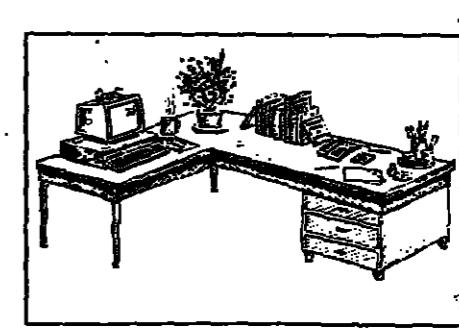
shrugging his shoulders and trying to look like a character in Proust.

We were sitting in the most uncomfortable chairs I have ever bummed. Near me was a table and most conspicuous on it were three photographs, a coloured one of Paul VI (unsigned), a small block of John XXIII with something written on it in the Holy Father's own fair hand, and a large, obviously Forties studio portrait of the wartime Pope which said, across the white robe, "Yours very sincerely, Pius XII."

IT MUST be big - most desks are too small - and L-shaped so that it wraps around me and takes an enormous quantity of paper. There must be room to swallow a computer and still appear like there's lots of space.

It's really a cliché of an office desk. As I work from home, I need a desk that defines my space. It must have lots of drawers with a filing cabinet in one leg and holes to hide the wires. It should withstand spills and dents. I need to feel free to slam things down.

I once glimpsed this desk in a Swedish or German furniture show-room in Savile Row, along with tubular sofas and chairs.



The desk appealed to me, though it cost thousands. Perhaps a reader might offer to buy it for me!

Alain de Botton will be speaking on "Intellectual Impostures" at the French Institute on 1 July at 6pm. Tickets, £8. Tel: 0171-937 8432.

Extract from *The Orton Diaries* edited by John Lahr, to be reissued by Methuen in the autumn (£8.99)

I YEARN FOR...

... A SPECIAL DESK, SAYS WRITER ALAIN DE BOTTON

Tomorrow has been cancelled

The Millennium Commission has 185 projects on the go, but the really ambitious ones may never make it. By Nonie Niesewand

A new ailment is threatening to cut down millennium celebrations across the country in the year 2000. It's called donor fatigue. Donors, whether they be the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Arts Council, the Millennium Commission or private companies asked to match lottery hand-outs, are finding it is infectious. Symptoms include great difficulty reaching deep into pockets...

Many took a turn for the worse when they saw the Prime Minister in a hard hat inside the dome listen to Jenny Page, chief executive of the New Millennium Experience, announce a £50 million shortfall in sponsorship for the great white flagship project itself. If even the dome can't attract sponsors, pity all the hundreds of other plans around the country that may never get off the drawing board.

"Clearly they are going to have a problem. That's the premier league appealing to prestigious firms in the top site," says Peter Valentine. And he should know. Finance director of the planned National Space Science Centre in Leicester, Valentine has spent a year with professional fundraisers BDS trying to get this £46.5 million millennium project off the ground.

He's not the only one. The Millennium Commission has 185 projects on its books, that "represent a physical change to the landscape" such as buildings, bridges, woods and canals. It has set aside £2.9 billion of lottery money to fund them. But the catch is that the projects chosen must match their grant by the same amount from other sponsors to get the go-ahead. The commission says that 97 per cent of the 185 projects have been promised the additional sponsorship they need. But promises are not always kept and several of the proposed jewels in the millennium crown have not yet attracted the funding that they hope for.

Peter Valentine has first-hand experience of donor fatigue and knows it's getting worse. With a first-rate project for Britain's first space science centre, linked to the University of Leicester, Valentine has had difficulty finding companies willing to pay a fortune to match lottery funding of £23.5m.

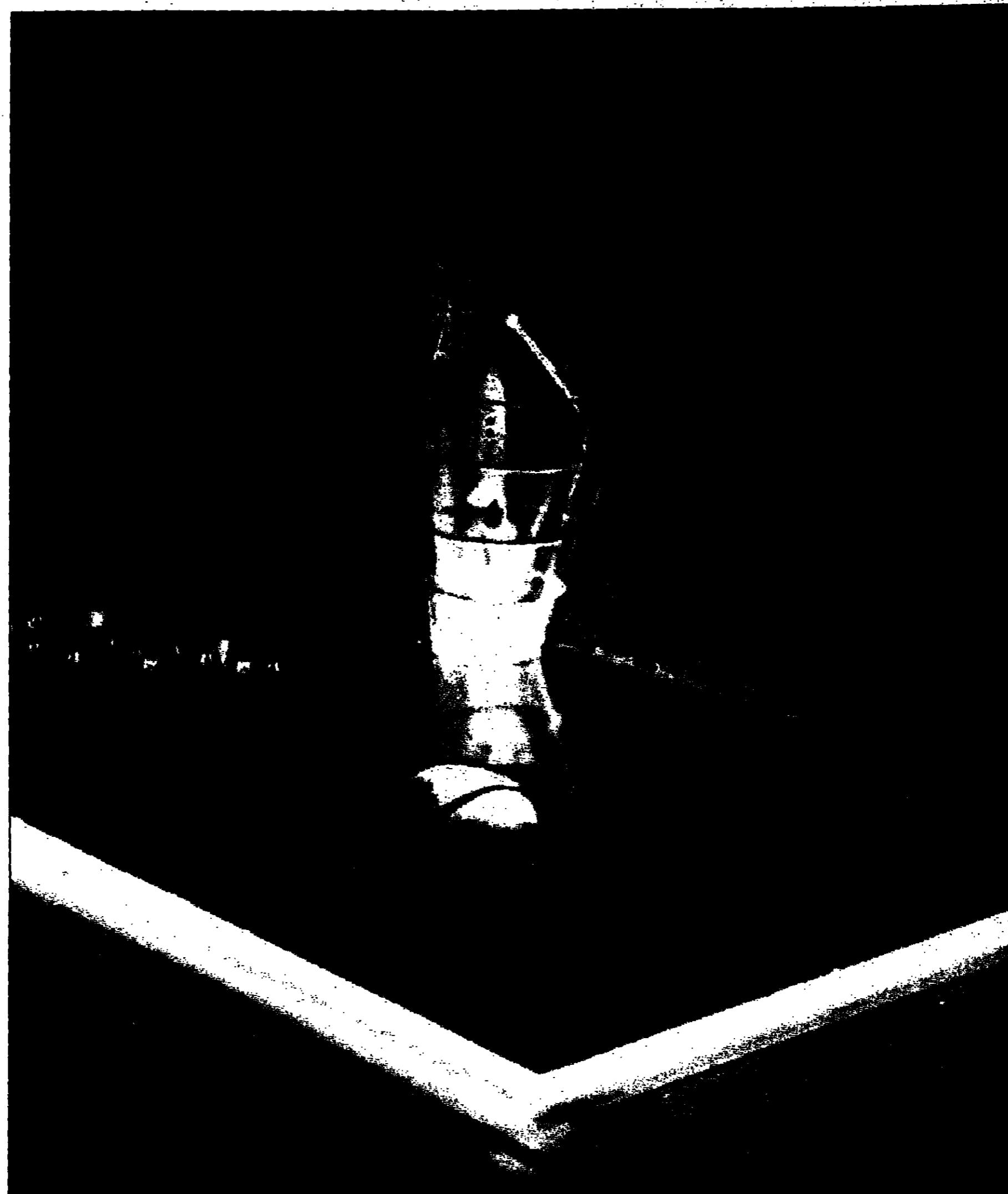
"Even when the Prime Minister intervenes to drum up support for the dome there are shortfalls," Valentine says wistfully. They've got 60 per cent in the bag but the centre, designed by Nicholas Grimshaw, at present going through planning, has been downsized from 12,000 square meters to 7,000. The National Space Science Centre is not due to open until February 2001, but the university is committed to opening the Space Challenger cockpit and mission control centre, on loan from the USA, before 2000. It might end up being housed in Portakabin, if they can't find somewhere to park it.

Even with EU grants guaranteed and private sponsorship on the table, things can go wrong. Further up the road, Trafford council so love the fragmented shards of the new Imperial War Museum designed by Daniel Libeskind, that they raised nearly £2m from the EU only to find their request for lottery money turned down by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Just 20 minutes drive away, the extension to the Manchester Art Gallery by Michael Hopkins was granted lottery funding of £20 million two years ago but still no donors or sponsors have been found, so work hasn't begun.

The Millennium Commission only releases their share of the money in phases – once they know that the project is going along nicely. Sometimes they pull the project altogether. The Weather Station at Bracknell sounded like a good idea when the council presented it as an interactive discovery centre, but their grant was withdrawn when they decided to turn it into a visitor centre.

The famous Giant's Causeway electric tram that ran along the coastline in Northern Ireland also had its funding pulled when



NATIONAL SPACE SCIENCE CENTRE, LEICESTER
Britain's first space science centre will definitely go ahead, to open in February 2001 but downsized from 12,000 square meters to 7,000. The architect: Nicholas Grimshaw - he of the Eurostar terminal at Waterloo and the new stadium at Lords. Originally, he flooded a flat roof so that from space the centre looks like a lake. Now he's used foil and insulation cladding to design a building that constantly changes colour, more like a mirage.

The building: Has a tower tall enough for rockets, clad in plastic foil fritted to change from transparent to opaque depending on your perspective. A mosaic of insulation panels on the walls changes colour with temperature (like rave T-shirt) and the flat roof is planted in wave form with alpine shrubs that turn from green in summer to autumnal red and orange in winter. Inside there is the most advanced planetarium in Europe.

The site: Storm water tanks emptied 20 years ago, donated by Leicester Sewage and Pumping Company, on the Abbey Mills pumping station.

Cost: £46.5m. Funding: £23.25m from the Millennium Commission with £13.8m raised by professional fundraisers. BDS. Richard Busby of BDS says: "Our job is to make design companies commercially viable. We work with the curators, not against them. If there's not enough distinction, it's not easy to get a sponsor."

For: NASA and the client, the University of Leicester.

Against: The conquest of outer space proved easier than filling the inner space.

the applicant couldn't get occupation of a house and garage critical to one terminus. A one-way railway brings on advanced stages of donor fatigue.

Not that you get a glimmer of this in a new exhibition called "12 for 2000", only on for one night in London, alas, before showing the world, through the British Council, 12 millennium projects. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister Derek

Fatchett calls them "examples of the excellence of British architecture and design". It's no secret that curator Hugh Pearman had to endlessly revise his list of buildings to make sure that they were all going ahead.

Mindful that a dozen buildings stayed for lottery money by the Millennium Commission hardly represents the 185 on the books, its chairman, Chris Smith, de-

scribed it as a "snapshot of what we are providing for the millennium". There were some good tourist attractions: the castellated Lowry centre by Michael Wilford at Salford on the bleak quays of the Manchester canal; revitalised village greens across Britain and village halls granted new green china and urns in hamlets twinned with obscure EU place names.

The enviously green Earth Centre in a disused colliery near Doncaster (see below) was included in the exhibition, but without its major attraction, the butterfly building by Future Systems.

A New Millennium Experience market researcher asked me a year ago: "What does the Millennium mean to you?" He seemed taken aback when I replied: "A deadline". Deadlines take on a whole new meaning for the Millennium Commission

funded projects afflicted with donor fatigue. The bigger the designer label behind the building, and the more fun it promises, the tougher it is.

Bird sanctuaries, bellringers' towers, canalside gardens, visitor centres, and village halls may be great places to celebrate the millennium, but the really inventive projects with a longer shelf life are going to need resuscitation.



IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM NORTH, TRAFFORD, MANCHESTER
Intended to house surplus material from the Imperial War Museum in London and provide educational access for children north of Watford. The architect: Daniel Libeskind, superstar of the profoundly unsettling Jewish Museum in Berlin and planned Victoria and Albert Museum spiral ex-

tension in London. His deconstructivist style, everything skewed and on the diagonal, is a metaphor for a century of international conflict.

The building: Three shards represent "the globe broken into fragments", showing land, sea and air warfare. The site: Five acres of wasteland on the banks of the Manchester Ship Canal.

Cost: Originally £40m, now £23m. Funding: Refused – except for £8.3m EU grant which expires if nothing is added to it within six months. For: Trafford Council, which means planning approval won't be a problem. Manchester's Jewish community are strong supporters. Against: Heritage Lottery Fund who twice rejected an application for £20m.



THE ARK AT THE EARTH CENTRE, NR DONCASTER

Part of an educational environment complex.

The architects: Future Systems, whose eco-chic buildings, flapped and hinged to exploit light and air, won the EU. The building: The Ark is seriously green with its butterfly-shaped roof dropping to the ground as a wrap-

around shelter that creates its own energy. Exhibitions on three levels inside. Visit Antarctica or the rainforest.

The site: 400 acres of a disused colliery outside Doncaster.

Cost: £23m, as part of the £100m Earth Centre project, the first phase of which, with buildings by Feilden & Clegg, Alsop & Störmer and Letts Wheeler, has begun.

Funding: Needs £23m, of which £16m has come from the Millennium Commission and private sponsors, Still seeking £7m.

For: Sir Crispin Tickell of WorldWide Fund for Nature and Jonathan Smales of Greenpeace.

Against: Nobody in their right mind could be against it. So why has the Ark been left high and dry?

ay
man

MUSIC

لهم من الاصل

Flares, Abba and disco have all been rehabilitated. Now Seventies revivalism faces its sternest test – prog-rock. By Chris Darke

From Genesis to re-evaluation

IT'S A strange spectacle, the Old Gabriel-era Genesis line-up standing around at Heathrow Airport for a promotional photo-shoot. Former members Anthony Phillips and John Silver, who played with the band long before they became famous, have even been unearthed for the occasion.

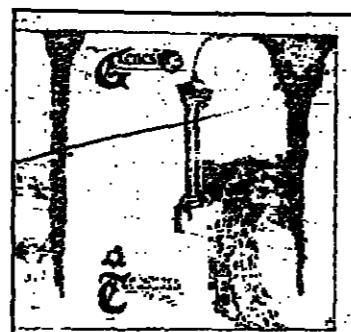
"Is this the first time you guys have all been together in the same room?" the photographer asks. "Yeah, we've been let out by the nurses," replies Peter Gabriel.

"The zimmer frame aspect of this is too good to miss," Phil Collins tells the photographer. "Ah, but we've got computers now," the photographer reassures him. "So we'll end up with long, flowing hair and little tummies..." says Collins.

Genesis are the unacceptable face of British rock and even in a pop climate intent on recycling every last detail of 70s kitsch we hold our noses and avert our eyes from the excesses of the progressive-rock era. So a four-CD boxed set devoted to Peter Gabriel-era Genesis is an archival venture that invites the dusting down of all the old criticisms: that they were musically bombastic and absurdly theatrical in their presentation; that they were the dinosaurs that punk thankfully laid to rest.

When I get my allotted 10 minutes with Collins he tells me that "there are a lot of bands that are afraid to come out of the closet that would end up to being fans of the early Genesis", and follows up with a couple of anecdotes on how Topper Headon, drummer with The Clash, and a member of The Dead Kennedys had both approached him to admit – in whispers, no doubt – their guilty secret of having once been fans.

But by the Britrock catalogue of cardinal sins, Genesis were damned to start out with Gabriel, Mike Rutherford and Tony Banks were ex-Charterhouse public schoolboys who were originally encouraged by



Back in the days of flares (or are they loons, even?) long hair and trim tummies, with the oddly coiffured Peter Gabriel and an hirsute Phil Collins on the right

In the early Genesis work, the music's folk-rock textures provide a green and pleasant backdrop for Gabriel's imagination to people with strange characters and a mixture of humour and grotesquerie. This period now sounds like the missing link between Monty Python and *Ziggy Stardust*-era Bowie. The English nonsense tradition is fed through a certain fairy-tale savagery to emerge as... a rock frontman kitted out in a red dress and a fox's head.

Gabriel's penchant for rock theatrics set Genesis aside from their prog-rock peers, Yes and ELP, in a way that their baroque compositions couldn't. And by the time of their sixth album, *Selling England by the Pound*, they were pushing themselves to the Americans as Britpop avant la lettre. Gabriel toured this album down up as Britannia and singing about East End gang wars on "The Battle of Epping Forest" with mockney inflections that sound closer to Eric Idle than Mick Jagger or Damon Albarn.

The Genesis Archive prompts the question, why have they been so thoroughly airbrushed out of the line-up of credible British rock acts?

Part of the answer must lie in the band having continued after Gabriel left, becoming first a core Establishment group, then an efficient if uninspiring pop machine. Had the last record with Gabriel, the concept album *The Lamb Lies Down on Broadway*, been Genesis' swan-song, the period of the Archive,

from 1967 to 1975, might have been more acceptable for critical reconsideration. For if the whole idea of the concept album has been revitalised recently thanks to artists as distinct as Radiohead, Goldie and Ron Sexx, *The Lamb...* is the grandfather of them all.

Two CDs of the Archive collection are given over to a live version of *The Lamb...*, revealing it as their darkest work. Gabriel wrote the story of a young Puerto Rican gang member, Rael, undergoing a transcendental experience in a mythical world beneath the New York streets and has re-recorded the vocals for the current project. Over 30 years, his voice has matured from a choirboy quaver through what one rock writer described as "raven-throated croak" to an emotive soul instrument. Two tracks in particular benefit from the reviving the sinister lullaby "Carpet Crawlers" and "Back in NYC", an all-out rocker covered by the late Jeff Buckley on the posthumous collection *Sketches for My Sweetheart the Drunk*.

If The Who could get away with *Tommy*, then Genesis have nothing to apologise for with *The Lamb...*. And like Townshend's venture into rock-opera, Gabriel's also had its filmic connections. "I spent some time working with Alejandro Jodorowsky who'd made *El Topo*, which was like a spiritual Western, very rough and violent. It made a huge impact on me. We devised a script together. In the last two or three years there have been three or four people that have expressed interest in pursuing it as a film."

He admits that he's surprised when *The Lamb...* still comes up as an influence, "because I'm used to 15 years of people badmouthing prog-rock. Although there were some really embarrassing moments, there was a heart to what we were trying to do." But whether that is induction enough for timid fans of early Genesis to leap out of the closet or not remains to be seen.

Like the man never left us

LISTEN TO the music of the late Charles Mingus and you get the feeling that all of human life is here. There's mewing cries and choking death rattles, an abundance of both laughter and tears, and enough proudly tuncient horn-play for several rites of spring.

A big man with big emotions, Mingus deployed the instruments of the orchestra rather as if they were parts of the human body. In his arrangements you can almost hear the pulsing of blood, the rumblings of a stomach, and the irregular thump of an over-excited heart.

The Mingus Band, formed by the composer's widow Sue Mingus to keep the spirit of his music alive, is both a satisfyingly faithful reflection of the man himself, and a wonderfully rumbustious group in its own right. It's both tight and loose at the same time, blending stately Ellingtonian ensemble passages with uproarious moments of great passion. There's also so much

JAZZ
THE MINGUS BIG BAND
RONNIE SCOTT'S
LONDON



heat and friction generated by the bravura blowing of the featured soloists that it sometimes seems as if the bandstand is likely to explode at any moment.

In this first performance of a two-week run at Ronnie's, the looseness was perhaps more in evidence than it will be for the rest of the engagement. At the beginning, the band had to sit in silence for what seemed an age while the trumpet section searched for their music, and you couldn't help wondering how Mingus himself – if there in body as well as spirit – might have reacted. He once brought a revolver on stage to settle an argument in the band and, in his necessarily brief engagement with the Ellington orchestra, he famously chased another bandman across the

players who are stars in their own right. The level of individual playing was astonishing, especially from the front-line of saxophonists. Bobby Watson and Slagle on alto, Seamus Blake and John Stubblefield on tenors, and Ronnie Cuber on baritone all took heroic solos while – in authentic Mingus style – the rest of the band egged them on with whoops, hollers and hand-claps, as well as the odd ironic put-down.

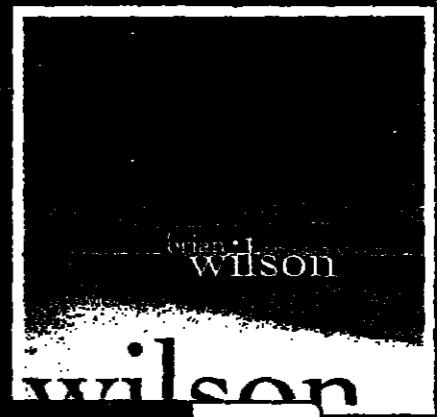
But despite the brilliance of the solos, the ensemble was really the thing. At the end, with the band riffing on the chorus to Better Git in Your Soul, with squealing trumpets, braying trombones and roaring saxes threatening to blow the house down, you could imagine the spirit of dear, departed Charlie hovering over them like a genie escaped from the lamp.

PHIL JOHNSON

The Mingus Big Band continues at Ronnie Scott's, W1, until Saturday, 4 July (0171 433 1747)

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THE CHARTS

TOP 10 UK SINGLES

TITLE	ARTIST
Three Lions '98	Baddiel, Skinner
Windaloo	Fat Les
Ghetto Supastar	Pras Michel
C'est La Vie	B*Witched
Got The Feelin'	Five
Lost in Space	Lighthouse Family
Horny	Mousse T
Carnaval De Paris	Dario G
Looking For Love	Karen Ramirez
The Boy Is Mine	Brandy & Monica

TOP 10 SINGLES FROM 10 YEARS AGO

TITLE	ARTIST
I Owe You Nothing	Bros
Doctorin' The Tardis	The Timelords
Boys	Sabrina
Voyage Voyage	Desireless
Wild World	Mad Priest
With A Little Help	Wet Wet Wet
The Twist	Fat Boys
Chains Of Love	Erasure
Tribute	The Pasadena
Every Day Is Like Sunday	Morrissey

TOP 10 SINGLES FROM 20 YEARS AGO

TITLE	ARTIST
You're The One That I Want	John Travolta
Miss You	The Rolling Stones
Rivers Of Babylon	Boney M
Annie's Song	James Galway
Oh Carol	Smokie
Davy's On The Road Again	Manfred Mann
Smurf Song	Father Abraham
Ca Plane Pour Moi	Plastic Bertrand
Boy From New York City	Darts
Airport	Motors

TOP 10 UK ALBUMS

TITLE	ARTIST
Talk On Corners	The Corrs
Blue	Simply Red
When We Were The New Boys	Rod Stewart
The Good Will Out	Embrace
Try Whistling This	Nell Finn
Life Thru A Lens	Robbie Williams
Urban Hymns	The Verve
Where We Belong	Boyzone
Left of the Middle	Natalie Imbruglia
Trampoline	Mavericks

Shout, shout, let it all out

THE BEASTIE BOYS are something of an acquired taste. If you were weaned on the mellifluous tones of say, LL Cool J or Hiphop's Michael Franti, the Beasties will be about as enjoyable as a mouthful of Roquefort when you're accustomed to the odd bit of Cheddar. Their trademark bouncy, shouty vocals range from high-pitched to downright squeaky, while their hellraising rap espouses hard partying as opposed to the gangsta politics of their contemporaries.

The delinquent trio - Ad Rock, MCA and Mike D - made middle England shudder with dread during the Eighties. The hormone-driven brat-rap of their 1985 debut *License to Ill* - containing that rumblous teenage anthem "Fight for your Right to Party" - prompted parents to lock up their daughters and chase the perpetrators back to New York.

Thirteen years on, they are still forced to be reckoned with. *Licensed To Ill* became one of the fastest-selling debut albums ever and, four albums on, they are now leading lights of the white-boy hip hop fraternity. They also run their own record label, produce their own magazine, do their own line in clothing and have embraced Buddhism.

But despite this rather incongruous spiritual and commercial status, they haven't lost any of their

REVIEW

THE BEASTIE BOYS
BRIXTON ACADEMY
LONDON

juvenile sparkle. As the syncopated thud of "Sure Shot" grips the auditorium, Mike D prances on to the stage dressed as the Caped Crusader and his cohorts run around in Day-glo boiler-suits. They leap, strut, and stomp about the stage, screaming their delinquent diatribes with larynx-lacerating force.

Most impressive of all is the crowd's ability to sing along - if you've ever read their lyrics, you'll know what I mean.

Overlaid with muscular rhythms and sprawling samples, their riot-inducing rumpus runs rings around funk, punk, jazz and rap, and they show uncharacteristic precision in switching from one genre to the next.

After a rather overlong period of scratchy, shouty numbers, they suddenly switch into "Shaft" mode. Assuming the session musician's demeanour of staring dolefully into the middle distance, they embark upon some exquisite jazzy instrumental complete with Hammond organ, double bass and Blue Peter percussion. It is this side of the Beasties that makes one wonder why anyone thought they were evil.

But then they remind us, abruptly

deciding to wake everyone up with an ear-crunching punk thrash number. The delightfully sadistic sentiments of "Heart Attack Man" makes it hard to believe that Adam Yauch (aka MCA) could even possibly be a Buddhist.

The crowd, all seemingly trying to outdo one another with the baggiest trousers, are also extraordinarily adept at switching personas. One minute they are beating each other to a pulp in the mosh pit, the next they are rolling back on their heels and passing round the splits.

After an excellent support slot, Money Mark continues to steal the show with his slick Mr Sulu hairdo and cheeky grin. Despite his reputation as being the most reserved of the Beasties' part-timers, he seems constantly on the brink of hysterical

laughter. As they encore with their guitar-driven homage to Starsky and Hutch, "Sabotage", he leaps back and forth over his keyboard, while still miraculously managing to play it. The crowd reaches new heights of madness as a sweaty fan takes a look at my notebook and says he will hunt me down and punch my lights out if I don't write something nice. I thank my lucky stars that they've put on a good show, but his rather unsavoury attitude doesn't quite fit in with the Beastie philosophy. There is nothing antagonistic about them, but then there never really was.

FIONA STURGES

The Beastie Boys' new album 'Hello Nasty' is out on 6 July (Grand Royal / Capitol)

With their delinquent mix of funky metal rap and Buddhism, the Beastie Boys bring it on home to Brixton

Tony Buckingham

EXIT POLL

WHAT THE PUNTERS THOUGHT OF THE BEASTIE BOYS

Andrew Fox, 25, web designer, London

"They are fantastic. It's one of the best gigs I have seen in a long time because I know them so well and dearly love them and they make perfect sense. It is total, chaotic, party music. If I didn't know the Beastie Boys, I would be lost, but for someone who likes them, it was brilliant. They did a lot of punk stuff which made everyone mosh and I haven't moshed since I was a student. I regressed, which was a big deal for me but probably not something I would talk about at dinner parties."

Anna Brooks, 18, student, London

"I found some of it confusing. It was so mad on stage and there was a lot of pushing and shoving going down on the floor so that it was really difficult not to get caught up in it all. Next time I see them I'll get right up to the front. Some of my friends did and I think they must have collapsed somewhere."

Matt Fisher, 29, band manager, London

"Fantastic. Raw rock and roll, stop and start. The whole vibe was brilliant, they controlled it perfectly from indulgent funk jazz tracks to

three-minute thrash punk songs that they are so renowned for. It was a superb show. There was a really bare stage, really minimal. It's what it's about really and that's my bottom line on the Beastie Boys. Awesome."

Alejandra Obregon, 24, editor, Colombia

"I really enjoyed it. I like Money Mark a lot. It was great, but very much a Beastie Boys crowd rather than a crowd for Money Mark. The Beastie Boys were just like boys. It was a very good end to the concert with 'Sabotage'."

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THIS WEEK'S ALBUM RELEASES

REVIEWED BY ANDY GILL



CD CHOICE

MOJO RADIO LO'JO (NIGHT & DAY JNC0 013)

LIKE EVERY other aspect of our lives, the record racks are currently awash with World Cup cash-ins - not just the new national anthems, but also countless albums of football-related compilations claiming to celebrate the competition's internationality with a musical buffet ranging from the indecipherable to the unlistenable.

A more satisfying, authentically distilled representation of the event's multi-ethnicity can be better gleaned, however, from French band Lo'Jo's inspiring *Mojo Radio*, an eclectic blend of French, Arabic and North African musical flavours whose lyrical content ranges wider still, taking in Spanish, Hindi and even English idioms. Fronted by gruff rap/singer Denis Pean, with the Nid El Mourid sisters adding exquisite backing harmonies, Lo'Jo's sound leans heavily on violin and accordion - though both instruments are played imaginatively, in ways which broaden the stereotypical French styles. With strong rhythmic underpinning pro-

vided by exotic percussion like darbuka and balafon, there's a pan-global infectiousness that acknowledges no national boundaries, an attitude nowhere better expressed than on "Amadou Morisy", where Lo'Jo gracefully thread bass clarinet and saxophones over a bed of kora, sitar and tabla.

Usually, this kind of cultural cross-pollination takes place either in occasional studio meetings (mostly at Peter Gabriel's RealWorld) or at Megadog-style raves. But *Mojo Radio* exudes an ease and integrity born of togetherness: it's an organic thing, grown out of the band's 15-year history, rather than a musical exercise. It's a brave work, with songs like "Rwandamania" challenging their countrymen's more conservative attitudes. The title-track itself offers an especially rousing expression of outsider unity - a battle-cry of the dispossessed more ringingingly sincere even than a footballer's shampoo endorsement. If that's humanity possible.

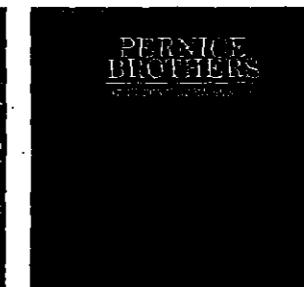
Despite this - or because of it - Dario G's method pays enormous dividends. "Sunshyne", the Robert Miles-style dancefloor groove, was a huge worldwide hit last year, and it doesn't take a genius to envisage "Sunmachine" itself following suit.



SUNMACHINE
DARIO G
(WARNER BROS. 3984-23378-2)



CONCERT CLASSICS
KRAFTWERK
(RANCH LIFE CRANCH 4)



**OVERCOME BY
HAPPINESS**
PERNICE BROTHERS
(RYKODISC RCD10447)



**THE CURSE OF THE
GOLDEN VAMPIRE**
ALEC EMPIRE & TECHNO
ANIMAL (DIGITAL HARDCORE DMR CD14)

THROUGH HIS brother Bob does indeed help out on guitar and vocals, *Overcome by Happiness* is really more of a solo effort by Joe Pernice.

The mood here is too impressionistic for New Country, with strings and occasional horns tinting Pernice's melancholic songs in a manner reminiscent of REM's *Automatic For The People*. With Pernice's hoarse vocals blurring their edges, and winding, cyclical melodies, they're odd, tentative songs that seem to circle around subjects without really alighting on them for any length of time - a style which makes for a few surprises, as when "Chicken Wire" eventually turns out to be about a suicide.

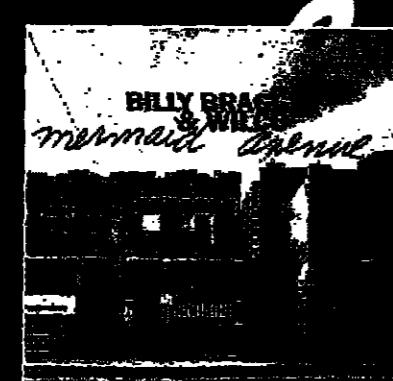
Sometimes, they seem to be less songs than mood moments, emotional snapshots of things too difficult or too abstract to easily put into words. Then again, what exactly ought one to expect of a song called "Wherein Obscurely"? An engagingly mysterious debut.

THE PROLIFIC hardcore techno auteur Alec Empire seems to have found his perfect collaborators in Techno Animal - the duo of Kevin Martin and Justin Broadrick.

Both parties profit from the arrangement: Empire gets a more daring surface for his distorted, over-driven beats, and Techno Animal's noise-scapes acquire the blistering rhythm tracks that they so richly deserve.

Admittedly, parts of *The Curse Of The Golden Vampire* do sound like someone sweeping up after an explosion in a glass factory, but others, such as the opening track "Caucasian Deathmask", are exhilarating blocks of rhythm, noise and wailing free-form saxophone. The only vocals - by MC Bean on "Substance X" - are half-legible phrases trapped in the cogs of the trio's metal machine music. It's a fair bet like this in 1998 - though of course, that's no guarantee of satisfaction. You have been warned.

Recommended releases.



Billy Bragg & Wilco 'Mermaid Avenue'
Billy Bragg joins forces with the American rock band Wilco on a bluesy musical odyssey that finds them putting a musical spin on environmental protest singer Woody Guthrie's 'Death' songs.



matchbox 20
'Yourselves Or Someone Like You'
The most successful band in America at the moment, Matchbox 20, have set to take the UK by storm with their second album 'Yourselves Or Someone Like You'. Starting distinctive, it soon becomes poppy and chart-topping, but recent single 'Push' has been well worth a listen.



Embrace, the media's new indie pop darling, are uncomfortable being compared to stadium rock bands. They insist the best is still to come

Mary Scanlon

A spiced-up supernova

Who do you think you are? Oasis? No, say Embrace.
They're better than that. By Jennifer Rodger

IT'S 18 months since Embrace offered up the slogan "Better Than Oasis" to the music press after a gig in front of 100 people resulted in a deal with Hut in the UK and Geffen in the States, a three-night residency at London's ICA and a mud-thwarted non-appearance at Glastonbury. They crashed on to the scene with an impact that marked them out as a kind of (male) indie Spice Girls. Embrace could have grabbed the invite to Next Big Thing bash, left a hastily-recorded debut album with the butler and picked up on every lucrative offer thrown at them. Instead, they bided their time and released three EPs as calling cards and refused a request for one of their songs to be the soundtrack for a tabloid advert.

A year and a half after being signed, they have come out of Yorkshire with their debut album, *The Good Will Out*, which went straight to No 1.

Rather than a Soho studio, their address is a Huddersfield community centre. Forget cocaine: they are more likely to be found doing pub quizzes. "We sort of got lead into saying all those statements about being better than Oasis by people with their own agendas," says Danny McNamara, the band's vocalist and guitarist. "We were naive." He says they needed to square up to the criticism and improve their technical skills. "People really love this band and they stick up for us. They forget that we are new and compare us with stadium rock bands. Just because we have written good songs, that doesn't mean this is going to be the best we can ever do."

Rather than the Verve and Oasis comparisons that greeted them ("the similarities are cosmetic," says McNamara), James Brown, Otis Redding and Nirvana are more telling inspirations. The influences can be seen in an album which reaches for melodic House of Love, begs the guitar licks and riffs from Stone Roses' funk and has Aretha Franklin's soul sewn into each song as if Embrace discovered a pipe that pumps emotion from the heart.

"We kind of just go for something that is really uplifting," says McNamara. "We try for a strong melody – one where you get to the end and feel better. If you are writing from the heart

and not from the head, you just let it come out. It does work on a cerebral level, but I think it is more visceral. We don't analyse it much."

Their current EP, "Come Back To What You Know", balances instinctive feel-good lyrics with a tight leash on clichés. This ingenuity runs through *The Good Will Out* as it rubs muscle-to-muscle rock ("All You Good Good People"), "One Big Family", "The Last Gas") and head-to-head serenades ("Fireworks", "Retread", "Now You're Nobody"). "All You Good Good People", for example, works as a terrace anthem, but was in fact written about a relationship breakup. Embrace are more the subject of dispute

than definitive statements. "It's like the Bible," is typical grandiloquence which has been misinterpreted as arrogance. It's only to point out the songs are open to interpretation.

If you want to pretend Embrace are a Brit Pop parallel to the Spice Girls, - and the media certainly have treated them like that - here is the Easy Guide. Mike "Sweet" Heaton, on guitars, says: "You can't complain about being compared to two of the best bands in the UK" Steven "Styx" Frith, bass, says nothing. Danny "Chatterer" McNamara, vocals and guitar: "If you are describing a colour like dark blue, you can't do it without comparing it to blue and black. Music is abstract like that." And Richard "Mim" McNamara: "Big ideas? I wanted to be a superhero last week."

The Good Will Out is on Hut/Virgin Records

Sarah Jepp was afraid her career was stalling. Then epiphany struck on the District Line. By James McNair

The beatniks are back – in Parsons Green

"HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS always baffle me, but that's where my songs come from. Every time I get surprised, disillusioned or completely put off, I just go to my little notebook."

Sitting in the elegant lounge of the Portobello Hotel in Notting Hill, 25-year-old singer-songwriter Sarah Jepp punctuates this admission with a slightly nervous laugh. The daughter of an Irish-American mother and a Chilean father, she was born in Minnesota, but also lived in New York and Los Angeles before settling in London. Jepp has also spent a fair amount of time "on the road". Fitting, then, that Mojo magazine should describe her eponymous debut album in terms of "beatnik cool".

Talking to her, it soon becomes apparent that her journey thus far has been peppered with false starts, odd jobs, and intriguing characters. At 19, having decided that she couldn't handle the cold of another Minnesota winter, she moved to LA's Venice Beach and took a job as nanny. "It was a complete nightmare", she says. "I kinda expected the mom to mother me a bit, too, but she was more interested in getting me to clean the house, like, 16 hours a day."

Produced by Nico Bola, Jepp's next jobs were as a breakfast waitress and a telemarketing clerk, but despite having "fucked-out" with an inexpensive room on the Venice Canals, LA's vacuous side was beginning to grate. "You'd get the smile, but that was it," she explains. "I'd go, 'I'm a bit down, I just got here,' and they'd go, 'I gotta go talk to my friend over there'. I figured it was me," she laughs. "I moved to New York."

Though Jepp was already writing perceptive vignettes and developing a vocal style redolent of a more stanzian Richie Lee Jones, at this stage, she still didn't have the self-belief to pursue music professionally.

She went to fashion school for a time, even wrote sketches for a stand-up comedian at one point. Down on her luck, she took a job at a horse stable in Central Park, moving from "friend's couch to friend's couch".

It was around this time that she met Dave Boyd of Hut Records. Within two months of her forming a band with guitarist Brandon Rose and former Jesus And Mary Chain drummer Richie Thomas, Boyd had signed Jepp to Hut. This, she says, was "a miracle out of the clear blue sky".

Produced by Nico Bola, Jepp's

debut album carves a refreshing sonic niche. Featured instrumentalists include vibraphone and marimba player Brian Carroll ("Don't forget that extra 't' – he's not a vegetable"), and Brazilian percussionist Cyro Baptista.

The departure of Richie Thomas in the project's early stages clearly unsettled Jepp. She says that she felt she'd lost an important ally and was scared that Virgin (of which Hut Records is a subsidiary) wouldn't let her make the album. Her overcoming of that fear is documented on Parsons Green, perhaps the record's stand-out track. "I was travelling on the District Line to my lawyer's office when I had a kind of epiphany," she explains. "I realised that, despite my grief, I shouldn't stop what I was doing."

Jepp tells me that with Bola cracking the whip, her album took just three weeks to make. She recounts how, when she "lost it" and started crying during a vocal take for the song *Orbit*, the producer was unmoved. "He was like: 'No, this is work, Sarah, and these musicians are on the clock'. He gave me two minutes and then I had to get back in there", she says. Perhaps he realised that if he did get her back at

the mike, he'd get the definitive performance? "Well that was his story," she smiles. "He said he knew that if he set me a challenge, I'd always be willing to step up to the plate."

The strength of Jepp's songwriting is its honest portrayal of characters she's met along the way. Christy, for example, is a warts-and-all snapshot of a wannabe actress she lived with in LA, while her best friend's mother's

migraines and hobbies are immortalised in *Bowling Night*. Did she worry how Christy might react to her song, I wondered? She pauses. "No matter how good a relationship you have with your friends, there will always be times when you think 'God, you're really getting on my nerves', she says. "We can all be idiots. Are you gonna have a sense of humour about it, or are you gonna be a phoney?"



Sarah Jepp ... "I'd always be willing to step up to the plate"

LYRIC SHEETS

During the recent row over The Stones not touring the UK it went almost unnoticed that Keith Richards had broken two ribs falling off some steps in his library. Apart from books, the library is said to contain a hangman's noose, a human skull and a bottle of HP Sauce.

Plummeting from library steps
Like Icarus among the books
His ribs sustained two broken ribs

Malum non frangitur

(A bad vase doesn't break)

"Library? A library?

Incredulous, his colleagues asked

To find the bibliophile unmasked

"A Tardis would be more his style

Or bathtub with a crocodile"

Mick and Ron flailed puzzled looks

A closet don? A man of books?

And which books in his library?

The British National Formulary?

Well-thumbed but dusty on the wall,

Or Gibbon with Decline and Fall?

Reports describe the library:

Octagonal, Mahogany

He climbed the ladder shakily

And ended up in agony

His wiry frame, his bird's nest hair

The seen-too-much-of sunrise stare

The north face of his bibliothèque

Defeated rock's most-rated wreck

He didn't want a book, of course

It's where he hides the HP Sauce

Of Keith. Try Huysmans' *A Rebours*

Get well. And get your arse on tour

MARTIN NEWELL

RIFFS

THE FIRST AND LAST RECORDS BOUGHT BY GOLDIE

PUBLIC IMAGE

PUBLIC IMAGE LIMITED

I liked it because it was a 45 and

the sleeve was a tacky piss-take

of the Sun newspaper heading

a media-type thing. You could

actually fold it out and it had

mock up stories inside. It was

a hardcore tune. I listened to it

over and over again, until

someone stole it. I was 14. It re-

minds me of going to a youth

club and having a little fuck and

getting your head kicked in. I

would like to listen to it now, in

the cold light of day.

FOUR CORNERS

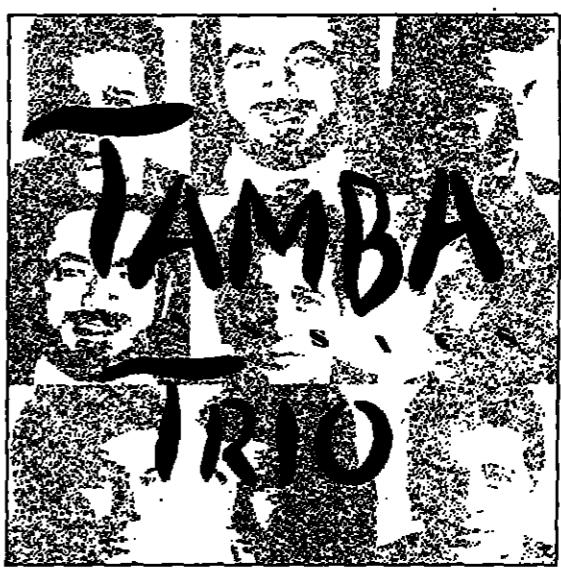
YELLOW JACKET

I have got it four times, but it

keeps getting knackered be-



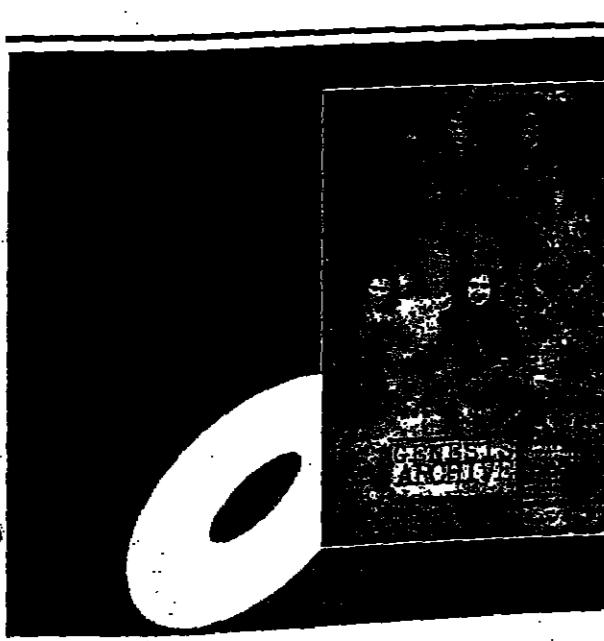
cause I love it to death. To top that though, I bought a Talking Heads album 20 times. There are only two albums that I listen to all the time and *Four Corners* is one of them. I continuously listen to it. I take it everywhere in the world with me and have found it always helps.



MUSIC FOR AIRPORTS!

28 sizzlin' tracks from Brazil's finest, including original version of *Mas que Nada*

OUT NOW
ON VERVE



Genesis Archive 1967-1975
A must for long-standing Genesis fans, this 4CD box set contains the band at their very peak: 1970's *1970* and 1971's *1971*, plus the world-beating *The Lamb Lies Down On Broadway*, while 1972's *Dans L'Assassinat Du Che Guevara* is included.



Various Artists 'Wayz Of The Dragon'
Dive On The Dragon presents 16 mighty, tough-as-nails tracks from Dope Dragon Records. From Suge knight's cutting-edge club-oriented drum 'n' bass to Project Purify's post-punk rock, Mack Gang Related, Space and Bigga Star rock no further.

TRACK IT DOWN AT
our price

Barristers have never been so much on the defensive. From the fledgling complaints commission to the inquiry into QC's fees and now proposals for reform by the Lord Chancellor, is it finally calling time at the Bar?

Why do barristers fear this man?

VERY FEW letters of thanks cross the desk of General Michael Scott, the lay commissioner responsible for handling complaints against barristers. He is more likely to become the target of complainants who transfer their wrath from the barrister they are convinced wronged them, to Scott, when he dismisses their complaint.

One prisoner, however, took a more sanguine view. After hearing his complaint had been dismissed, the prisoner wrote to Scott: "I have even noticed you write to me in my language in order to help me understand easier. Keep up the good work. Thanks. PS I will win."

A year into his job as the Bar's first complaints commissioner - the new Legal Services Ombudsman, Ann Abraham, will be passing her judgement on his work on Monday (29 June) when she publishes her first annual report - Scott CR CBE DSO, still looks the very image of a modern general, with his narrow, brown-rimmed glasses, wide pinstriped suit, regimental red and blue watchstrap and precisely ordered office with its military prints on the wall.

However, Scott, who commanded the Second Battalion Scots Guards in the battle for Mount Tumbledown during the Falklands war, is well used to dealing with "disappointed" people. He shows considerable empathy and patience for the inarticulate and distressed.

"There is, perhaps, a little feeling among complainants that I am 'one of them'. But I see myself as an umpire. I am not on anybody's side. I have no particular loyalty to the barristers. But at the same time have to protect them from frivolous and inappropriate complaints."

He may be paid £50,000 a year by the Bar council, but he is no "lucky". His first annual report didn't pull its punches over those barristers who made mistakes through incompetence or cutting corners. His comments that "arrogance and self-

importance result in rudeness and bombast" prompted one barrister to write, accusing him of "pandering" to the man in the street.

He received 532 complaints, the highest on record. The majority came from members of the public, but some were lodged by judges, the Legal Aid Board and solicitors. The most common complaints centred on neighbourhood, matrimonial and prisoners' disputes.

Many of the complaints arose from misunderstandings about a barrister's role and duties to the court and legal aid fund. But, of the 40 per cent of cases Scott referred to the Bar's Professional Conduct and Complaints Committee (PCC), about half were found to involve *prima facie* evidence of misconduct or inadequate service.

But Scott is keen to put his criticisms in perspective. "There are 9,400 barristers practising at the independent Bar. If each do on average 100 things a year that could be complained about, such as writing an opinion or representing someone in court, that represents one complaint per 1,700 actions.

"The poor old barrister is an easy target at the moment with talk of 'fat cats'. What the public doesn't realise is how difficult it is to become a barrister, how little you are paid at the bottom of the profession, and how much good work is done."

The only major change he is pressing for is the power to award compensation in cases of inadequate service. At the moment, compensation is limited to a maximum of £2,000 where the complainant can prove financial loss which would be recoverable in law.

"We can make barristers remit fees, which is fine as long as the complainant has been paying for the case. But where a case is legally aided, the remitted fees go back to the Legal Aid Board. The Bar Council has been against allowing us to award compensation without qualification, because they felt it would open the floodgates."

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General Michael Scott, the legal services ombudsman: 'I have no particular loyalty to the barristers'

Neville Elder

Not everyone is so enthusiastic about the Bar's self-regulatory procedures. Earlier this month, the Fabian society called for the Bar to be stripped of its complaint handling powers and replaced by an independent body along the lines of the General Medical Council. Chris Swinson, the new head of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, has proposed that there be an independent body to oversee all self-regulated professions.

But Scott defended the current system. "If anything, if you have 'chaps regulating chaps', you find they are much harder on their own than the public might think."

"I don't feel I am the last bastion between the bar and central regu-

MICHAEL SCOTT'S TIPS FOR BARRISTERS

- Try saying sorry - it is not a legal admission of guilt
- There is no need to show off how clever you are
- Avoid jargon
- Make sure the client doesn't

- feel left out when you are consulting with their solicitor in their presence
- Always be sure that you pay your professional indemnity premiums on time

plaints and he has had one case sent back to him for reconsideration by Abraham. He followed it up, confirmed the same result and is now waiting for her conclusions.

One ongoing criticism of the Bar's complaint system is that it focuses too heavily on whether the barrister is right or wrong, rather than on the effect on the complainant.

Marlene Winfield, senior policy advisor for legal services for the National Consumer Council, echoed that point. "He has done well to get the complaints system up and running but he is doing it with one hand tied behind his back, as he himself admits. The combination of an extremely high standard of proof, the fact that in order to get compensa-

tion you have to show actual loss, and the immunity barristers have for their performance in court, is not really in the spirit of a proper complaints procedure.

"Both solicitors and barristers will go to the wall and demand every one of their rights, which is not the way to deal with complaints if the emphasis is on client care."

However, Scott is under no illusions about what a complaint can mean to a barrister. "It can mean you will never make QC or judge, or solicitors might not instruct you. If you are suspended, that is your livelihood gone. What if it is not justified?"

GRANIA LANGDON-DOWN

No bar to properly qualified solicitors

THE BAR has nothing to fear from competition. As I have said on many occasions, I do not oppose rights of audience for those who are properly trained, qualified and regulated.

Provided there is a level playing field, with proper safeguards to ensure quality and high standards, barristers have nothing to fear from fair competition from solicitors.

I welcome the Lord Chancellor's wish to work with the professions to develop a new framework and in particular his recognition that lawyers seeking to exercise rights of audience in the higher courts would need additional training.

I have been working on a simple framework which provides the same rights of audience for all lawyers, barristers and solicitors who are properly qualified.

On qualification, all lawyers would have rights of audience to a certain level, but to acquire rights of audience in the higher courts one would have to acquire the appropriate experience or training.

I am in the process of establishing a high-powered committee to provide a constructive response to the Lord Chancellor's proposals and examine ways in which we can promote the highest possible standards across the profession.

I should say, however,

OUR LEARNED FRIEND



HEATHER HALLETT

that it is misleading to suggest that the Lord Chancellor's proposals will necessarily mean savings to the client because only one lawyer will be required. Any case which goes to court will still require preparation and presentation whether it is one, or two lawyers handling the case.

As far as the Crown Prosecution Service is concerned, I have two concerns. Firstly on practical grounds, at a time when the service already faces reorganisation, it is not clear to me that it is sensible to be giving CPS lawyers additional tasks.

Secondly, as a matter of principle, I do oppose any changes which would substantially undermine

the role of the independent advocate. In the last six months as Chairman, I have visited a number of countries that have state-run prosecutors. Anyone who has studied the American system would have concerns. There is a tendency there for a state prosecutor to become too determined to achieve a conviction at all costs.

The Lord Chancellor proposes that CPS lawyers should take on cases in the Crown Court when appropriate. The difficulty comes in defining when it would be appropriate. I fear a situation when the Treasury, seeking to impose further financial constraints, puts pressure on the CPS to use their in-house lawyers more and more, whatever their level of experience.

It cannot be in the public interest to send an inexperienced lawyer to court to prosecute a serious criminal simply because it is thought that it would save money.

I welcome the Lord Chancellor's commitment to promoting quality and his support for a strong, independent Bar. I also share his belief that the best advocates will continue to specialise as barristers and that quality and high standards are maintained.

Heather Hallett QC is chairman of the Bar Council

Lord Irvine says the Bar's open

The Lord Chancellor's reforms promise upheaval but equality for the profession

IT MAY not be as popular as either the World Cup or Wimbledon, but it seems that barracking and baiting barristers has been occupying the time of the Lord Chancellor and the media.

First it was the furore over the level of QC's fees which led to an inquiry before five law lords in the House of Lords last week. Then the questions asked in the House of Commons by MP and solicitor Andrew Disnare on the propriety of Lord Neil QC being offered (and declining) the brief of Dame Shirley Porter in the appeal in the Westminster Council gerrymandering case.

Barristers have never been so much on the defensive - and for our own cause.

But there is a greater threat to the Bar and its future. At present, barristers have a near monopoly to appear in cases heard in the higher courts in England and Wales. But all this will change if the reforms proposed by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Laird QC, in his consultation paper on the reform of rights of audience, are given the go-ahead.

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tended rights of audience.

At present, 90 per cent of barristers and solicitors are excluded from appearing in the higher courts. This includes nearly all solicitors, as well as lawyers directly employed by Government departments, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), local authorities or in business. Only barristers in private practice and a few solicitor-advocates are allowed in.

As an indication of the possible impact of the proposed changes, there are over 71,000 practising solicitors in England and Wales, and 624 solicitor-advocates (about 90 of whom are in the CPS), and about 9,000 barristers in private practice.

The fear for the Bar is that competition in the courts will be overwhelming, and the possible

result will be an exodus from law firms and the CPS.

Lord Irvine said: "Change is long overdue. The perception has grown that the legal system is dominated by the interests of lawyers, rather than by the need to provide justice for the people.

"I have one clear aim: the establishment of a modern and fair system which will promote quality and choice for those who need the help of an advocate while, at the same time, providing value for money. Anti-quated restrictions on which lawyers can appear in the higher courts, which force people to pay for two lawyers in cases where one would do, can have no place in this new system."

These radical proposals are not entirely unexpected. Behind the shake-up is the underlying message that both the Bar and

solicitors face an unprecedented period of upheaval, not only in how the profession is paid from the public purse, but also in how legal services are delivered generally.

Geoff Hooper, parliamentary secretary at the Lord Chancellor's Department, has already reinforced the Government line when he said that the Government's approach to legal reform is not to "Will this harm the Bar?" but "Will it help more people?"

But as with most things legal, the devil is in the detail. Following the consultation period, legislation will be needed to amend current statutes and establish new bodies to deal with the changes, including a Legal Services Consultative Panel, which will replace the current Advisory Committee on

Legal Education and Conduct.

Perhaps the most interesting proposal in the paper is that the Lord Chancellor "could be given the power to abolish any lawyers' professional rule which was held to be anti-competitive or restrictive of rights of audience and if necessary to replace it with a rule drafted by the Lord Chancellor in consultation with the Lord Chief Justice, the Master of the Rolls, the President of the Family Division and the Vice-Chancellor". This proposal seems to be in line with the view that if Lord Irvine is to get his reforms through, he will need to win the support of the judges.

In case the profession feels that their interests are not being taken account of, the Lord Chancellor has stressed that although it is important that opening up rights of audience has the support of the profession and the judiciary, "liberalisation is in the public interest".

But he has confirmed that he wishes to proceed by agreement with the professions. For any in the profession (and other interested parties) who feel that the LCD has not been sufficiently "open" about consultation on the proposals, they can access the consultation paper and contact the Lord Chancellor at the appropriately titled address on the internet: <http://www.open.gov.uk/lcd/index.htm>.

The consultation period will end on 14 September 1998.

LINDA TSANG

BUT WHAT DO THE PROFESSIONALS THINK?

Mark Humphries, solicitor advocate and partner at City law firm Linklaters & Paines

"This is an extremely positive step. At Linklaters and similar firms, this is what we anticipated about a decade ago and have been planning for. The major law firms have vast resources of solicitors who until now have been thwarted in their attempts to provide a full service to their clients. The consultation paper suggests that within a short time, it will be possible to offer a fully integrated litigation and advocacy service to

clients, that is both beneficial to clients and to lawyers."

Barbara Mills, Director of Public Prosecutions

"I am extremely pleased with this announcement not only for the CPS but for all employed lawyers. We have been fighting for rights of audience for a very long time now. I am delighted to see that finally we will see CPS solicitors and barristers in the Crown Court. It is a great opportunity for the CPS, creating greater choice and competition in Crown Court advocacy."

The profession's new face

Kamlesh Bahl, chair of the Equal Opportunities Commission, is running to be deputy vice-president of that white-male bastion, the Law Society. Commentators are rubbing their hands with glee. But will the legal world accept her? By John-Paul Flinthoff

Take a look at this face: you'll be seeing it again. It's destined to make countless appearances on *Question Time*, *Newsnight*, and *Channel 4 News*. It will deliver opinions on a wide range of issues, with one specialist subject: the legal profession. But that's only if its owner, Kamlesh Bahl, can pull off the relatively modest achievement of election to the position of deputy vice-president of the Law Society.

To the media, Bahl's face is the stuff of dreams. It's not white, and nor does it belong to a man. Bahl presents a refreshing change from the endless parade of white men summoned to pronounce on matters of national importance. Especially legal affairs - an area which white men exert an even stronger than usual pre-eminence.

Not that Bahl exactly constitutes a novelty act. She's already amassed considerable experience in media relations, having served since 1993 as chair of the Equal Opportunities Commission. "I have the hide of a rhino," she says of her current job. "It's my task to be a public figure."

She's even been used as the model for a character in Britain's favourite radio soap: *"The Archers"* were looking to introduce a female Asian solicitor, she says. They contacted me and sat me down and told me to tell them about my background." The result: legal aid litigator Usha Gupta becoming a regular fixture at Ambridge.

Sitting in her vast London office (the main one is in Manchester), Bahl explains that being dark-skinned and female has not always been an advantage. Far from it. She first came across discrimination immediately after leaving Birmingham University, where she had done rather well.

"People told me to apply to big firms, with good prospects. I made 250 applications - at a time when there was a shortage of articled clerks - and had lots of interviews, but got just one offer. That, she says, is the worst discrimination she's suffered personally, but through her job at the EOC - which funds some 50 per cent of cases sent from Britain to the European Court of Justice - she's gained plenty of second-hand experience. "I still get letters from people who have made 250 applications today," she says solemnly. "I don't think the landscape has changed very much, there are just better support groups."

All of which makes Bahl sound encouragingly right-on. Perfect for dealing with a Labour government which has already flagged its contempt for the profession by leaking to the press radical proposals for legal aid, a day before announcing them to the Solicitors' Annual Conference.

But Bahl is not, in fact, even remotely left-wing. Let's not forget, the government which appointed her to the EOC was Conservative. "This job was advertised and I decided to have a go," she remembers. "There were two interviews, one with a junior minister and civil servants, and the next with (the then Secretary of State) Gillian Shepherd and about ten civil servants. That was tough, they really grilled you! But she obviously performed satisfactorily. Against competition from 250 (that number again) other candidates, Bahl became, at 36, the organisation's youngest ever head, and the first from an ethnic minority.

In person, she's drollly persuasive, issuing forth a steady stream of common sense. Though she smiles warmly, the overall effect, enhanced by a neat suit and spectacles, is seriousness. Similarly, her background is safely "Establishment". One uncle was chief justice in Kenya; and her father - who brought the family to Britain in the mid-60s, when Kamlesh was nine - was a civil servant. Even her quirky hobbies have respectable explanations. Bahl recently started taking lessons in singing and playing the harmonium, a reed organ used a lot in Indian music. "To develop a better appreciation of music," she reveals. "That was one of my New Year's resolutions."

She's done well, and she knows it. "When I was appointed, the EOC was seen as a marginal, left-wing, irrelevant organisation. It was not consulted before decisions were made. It did not have good relationships with government or employers. Under my leadership, it has been transformed from an organisation under threat into a highly respected and credible body with an excellent international reputation."

(Even if she does say so herself). It's not just the EOC which has benefited from her input. Among other achievements, Bahl is a board member of two health authorities, a governor of the University of Westminster, a member of the council of the Law Society's council since 1990. Over the years, she has collected an impressive list of high-

level contacts, including the Prime Minister's wife (a leading employment lawyer), the head of the CBI, Adair Turner, and John Monks at the TUC. The former Tory Employ-

ment Secretary, Lord Hunt of Wirral - himself a solicitor - remains a fan, pronouncing himself "very impressed" by her.

There's only so much to achieve,

career-wise, at the Equal Opportunities Commission. Bahl was appointed CBE last year, and next year she's standing down. All being well, she should by then have served for a year as deputy vice-president at the Law Society. After a further year as vice-president, she could take over as president in July 2000. Slow progress, perhaps, but that shows

she's aware of the challenge facing her: the Law Society budget is ten times as big as the EOC's, and while the EOC has just four offices (the main one in Manchester), the Law Society has them dotted all over the country.

Bahl has planned her campaign with care. To minimise the prospect of a challenge, she announced her candidacy as long ago as October, and has consistently eschewed alignment with any particular "ticket". After all, Law Society elections have not, historically, been contested. But in 1995, the maverick from East Anglia, Martin Mears, came from nowhere to win the presidency, and now a friend of Mears, Ruddersfield solicitor David Keating, has stood against Bahl.

Keating says he was urged to stand because Bahl lacks the necessary experience. Her entire career, he says, has involved working as an "employed" solicitor for the GLC, the still-nationalised British Steel, and in the private sector. In other words, she's never worked at a law firm. "And for five years," Keating adds, "she has been chairwoman of a quango, not working as a solicitor as such." (To many people, that hardly disqualifies her.)

"Ask her what her actual policies are," says Keating. "It's fair to say that on that point, Bahl is vague. She worries about the Society's conflict of interest as regulator of solicitors and also their "trade union". She wants members of the council to have a "fuller" role. And she predicts competition from unfamiliar quarters: "Sainsbury's has already done petrol and pharmacies," she says. "I think legal services are just around the corner."

Bahl is full of these interesting notions. She says of herself: "I do give it my everything. There are days when people here say: 'You are not allowed to have any more ideas'."

Keating conceded that she's "a very able person, very pleasant". But that, he says, is not enough. The Law Society needs strong leadership, after going through some terrible times. An ill-fated computer project for high street solicitors recently wasted hundreds of thousands of pounds. The Solicitors Indemnity Fund, an insurance scheme into which all firms must contribute, found itself £500m short. And the government's legal aid proposals require close scrutiny. But in the end - let's face it - Bahl's only standing for deputy vice-president, if solicitors are unhappy with her performance in that junior position, there's a simple solution: they

Kamlesh Bahl, upon whom the character in *"The Archers"* is based, claims she has 'the hide of a rhino'

BRIEFS

IN ADDITION to publishing his consultation paper on the reform of rights of audience yesterday, the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Laird, also published a paper earlier this week entitled *Justice at the Right Price*. In the paper, he unveiled details of the Lord Chancellor's Department's plans to delay the introduction of fixed pretrial legal costs in fast track cases so that the department can carry out a fundamental review into why the cost of litigation is so high. The consultation paper also includes proposals to introduce proportionality into the civil

justice system - that is, to introduce a link between the value of claims and the costs of pursuing a claim in the civil courts.

Under the proposals, recoverable legal costs by lawyers would be capped at a maximum of 50 per cent of the award or claim, with a possible exemption in personal injury cases.

City law firm Ashurst Morris Crisp's managing partner Ian Nisse has received a poison pen letter, which is purportedly written by a member of his staff. The letter - which was leaked to the legal press - accuses

him of allowing partners greater profits while giving many staff no rise this year. Ashurst's senior partner Andrew Soundy said the firm had not taken the matter seriously because the letter was anonymous and was "not representative of an organisation of more than 1,000 people."

And at the end of a busy week for the Lord Chancellor, he ended the week as the recipient last night of The Lawyer Personality of the Year award at a dinner at the Grosvenor House Hotel, attended by over 1000 legal luminaries. The

firm which has acted for Chris Evans in his bid for Virgin Radio and also for *The Guardian* in the libel case brought by former MP Jonathan Aitken won the overall award for Law Firm of the Year - Olswang. The legal profession's equivalent of the Oscars also had Cherie Booth QC as the chair of its judging panel, and a flurry of rumours that at one firm from the Big Five law firms, staff had been handed fortune cookies to try and improve the chances of the firm winning one of the awards.

LINDA TSANG

CLASSIFIED

Legal Notices

No. 003355 of 1998

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

CHANCERY DIVISION

COURT IN THE MATTER OF THE

SALARIES COMPANY LIMITED

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE

COMPANIES ACT 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

that a Petition was presented to Her

Majesty's High Court of Justice,

Chancery Division at London

for the confirmation of the

cancellation of the share premium

account of the above-named

Company in the sum of

US\$285,450.74.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER

IVEN THAT the said Petition will be

furnished to any person requiring

the same by the under-mentioned

Solicitors on payment of the

regulated charge for the same.

Dated this 25th day of June 1998

The & Lewis

32 Farringdon Street

London EC4A 4TL

Ref: AOA

Solicitors for the Company

Charities

CHILDREN ON DIALYSIS

need holidays, so do their families. Before planning your own holidays this year, please spare more than a thought for those children who without your help will never get away at all.

Donations urgently needed by

The British Kidney Patient Association
Bordon, Hants. GU35 9JZ
Reg. Charity No. 270288

For further information contact:

FREEPOST 6 Avenue Rd

London W14 8BR

or telephone 0345 58 36 89

or fax 0171 975 4444

or e-mail 0121 697 4444

or 0161 934 7777

live connections & voice paxons

or 0171 975 4444

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NEW FILMS

PONETTE (PG)

Director: Jacques Dollen
Starring: Victoria Thivisol, Marie Trintignant, Claire Nebout (subtitles)

Ponette is a precociously intelligent four-year-old girl whose mother dies in a car accident. As the implications of mortality begin to dawn on the child, she takes some comfort in the rituals of religion which she has absorbed, and accordingly awaits her parent's imminent resurrection.

The young *Victoire* *Thivisol* shows a prettier natural comprehension of acting technique, though this isn't exactly a recommendation of the film since, as it stands, it's hard to commend an actress for being too good; it's hard to deny a distinct discomfort at watching one so young parade emotion this raw and primal.

It doesn't help matters that *Ponette*, while tenderly photographed, has nothing very sophisticated to say about grief or childhood. You never get the feeling that you're in the hands of a confident or challenging artist. Perhaps the film's failure to engage finally comes down to the fact that when adults are good, they're very, very good, but when children are good, they're creepy.

JOURNEY TO THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD (U)

Director: Marcelo de Oliveira
Starring: Marcelo Mastroianni, Jean-Yves Gaucher, Leonor Silveira (subtitles)

Featuring Marcelo Mastroianni's final performance, this season's picture's lament that "the mind can be fine, but the wrapping deteriorates" doesn't apply to the man himself. His disposition, wise and sunny, but flecked with both mischief and weariness, is unchanged; he still looks like a man who has been benignly trailing heavy luggage for all eternity without complaint.

But the picture, by the 50-year-old film-maker Marcelo de Oliveira, is a grave disappointment. It's a commentary on life and experience through the travels of Marcelo, the elderly Portuguese director played by Mastroianni (guess who's that based on?), and his young French companions.

PALMETTO (15)

Director: Volker Schlöndorff
Starring: Woody Harrelson, Elisabeth Shue, Gina Gershon

Each week seems to see the release of yet another ironic modern *film noir*, the latest edition to the genre being *Palmetto*, directed by Volk-

er Schlöndorff (*The Tin Drum*), but hardly missing the wit and precision of John Dahl. Harry Barber (*Woody Harrelson*) is the ex-writer and ex-con who gets mixed up with a pair of duplicitous women - a glamorous millionaire's wife (Elisabeth Shue) and her stepdaughter, Odette (Chloë Sevigny).

GOING ALL THE WAY (15)
Director: Mark Pellington
Starring: Jeremy Davies, Ben Affleck, Amy Locane, Rachel Weisz, Rose McGowan

This is an occasionally moving rites-of-passage drama with committed performances from Jeremy Davies and Ben Affleck as two soldier buds returning to their home town.

THE OBJECT OF MY AFFECTION (15)

Director: Nicholas Hytner
Starring: Jennifer Aniston, Paul Rudd, Alan Alda, John Goodman

See The Independent Recommends, right

MIMIC (15)

Director: Guillermo Del Toro

Starring: Mira Sorvino, Jeremy Northam, Josh Brolin

Ingenious science-fiction-horror fable from the director of the excellent vampire movie, *Cronos*. Mira Sorvino is a doctor who successfully combats a virus that's sweeping New York by developing a rival cockroach species to wipe out the original disease-carriers, in the process inadvertently creating a breed which can assume human form.

GIRLS' NIGHT (5)

Director: Nick Hurran

Starring: Julie Walters, Brenda Blethyn, Kris Kristofferson

Shameless teenager with Brenda Blethyn as the cancer-suffering bingo winner who jets off to Las Vegas for a last-chance holiday with her sister-in-law (Julie Walters) and meets a wrinkled rodeo-riders (Kris Kristofferson). Initially bubbly, the picture soon turns grossly manipulative.

THE WAR AT HOME (18)

Director: Emilio Estevez

Starring: Emilio Estevez, Martin Sheen, Kathy Bates, Kimberly Williams

Adapted from James Duff's Broadway play *Homefront*, *The War at Home* is about a

man who has been benignly trailing heavy luggage for all eternity without complaint.

But the picture, by the 50-year-old film-maker Marcelo de Oliveira, is a grave disappointment.

It's a commentary on life and experience through the travels of Marcelo, the elderly Portuguese director played by Mastroianni (guess who's that based on?), and his young French companions.

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GENERAL RELEASE

AFTERSHOCK (15)

Two couples swap partners and wry aphorisms in the latest urban romantic comedy from writer/director Alan Rudolph.

THE APOSTLE (12)

Director: Robert Duvall plunges into his role in a manner that is both terrifying and entrancing

THE BIG SWAP (18)

Draught, unconvincing and preachy drama played out against Sunday supplement locations.

THE BUTCHER BOY (15)

Neil Jordan's film of Patrick McCabe's blackly-comic novel about a maniac, precocious 12 year old boy in 1960s Ireland has a macabre thrill about it that is genuinely seductive.

CITY OF ANGELS (12)

Nicolas Cage plays an angel puzzling over whether or not to exchange his divinity for domestic bliss with a mortal woman (Meg Ryan).

DAD SAVAGE (18)

Patrick Stewart sheds his Star Trek image to play a tulip-growing, Country & Western-obsessed East Anglian crime boss in this stab at re-inventing the British thriller.

DREAM WITH THE FISHES (18)

Here's a recipe for disaster. Take a suicidal loser preparing to throw himself off a bridge. Add a junkie with a month to live and give them some time on the road together before an inevitable tearful farewell. Serve with a sick-bag at the ready. Perhaps it's the realisation that *Dream with The Fishes* could so easily have been a nightmare that makes its success refreshing and deserved.

FISTS IN THE POCKET (NC)

A new print of Marco Bellocchio's 1985 classic.

THE FULL MONTY (15)

Re-release of the British blockbuster in which redundant steelworkers turn to stripping.

THE GENERAL (15)

John Boorman's best film in two decades charts the career of Dublin gangster Martin Cahill, who ran rings round the Gardai with a series of heists before the IRA put him out of business in 1994.

THE GIRL WITH BRAINS IN HER FEET (15)

A jaunty if unoriginal take on the rites-of-passage genre, set in Leicester at the start of the 1970s. The lively script is complimented by the performance of young actress Joanna Ward, who sparkles as the film's heroine.

THE GRASS HARP (PG)

An adaptation of Capote's novel about lives and loves in a southern American town in the 1940s. A fine cast has been assembled to little effect.

THE HANGING GARDEN (15)

Gay hero, Sweet William, returns home for the wedding of his sister (Kerry Fox), who is marrying the boy that William once had a crush on, in this disarming drama.

THE LAST TIME I COMMITTED SUICIDE (18)

A mannered and vacuous dip into the life of the Beat poet Neal Cassady, played by Thomas Jane. There's lots of fast cutting and theatrical lighting, but the film amounts to the same Beat clichés: blue smoke, white vests and black coffee, mazza.

LIVE FLESH (18)

A novel by Ruth Rendell is the unlikely origin of Pedro Almodóvar's most accomplished film to date, though the action has been shifted to Madrid and crammed with sexual symbolism so potent it leaves you reeling.

WEST END NUMBERS

172: Curzon West End Open

autumn 1998; Empire Leicester Square 0900-885930; Rezor 077

ABC Baker St 077-902 0418;

ABC Piccadilly 267 4322; ABC Shaftesbury Rd 077-902 0402;

ABC Swiss Centre 077-902 0405;

ABC Trafalgar Court Rd 077-

902 0416; Barbican 072 8891;

Chelsea 351 3742; Clapham Picture House 499 3228; Curzon Mayfair 369 1728; Curzon Mine-ma 369 1728; Curzon Phoenix 369

closed, call 071 585 3057 for details; Odeon West End 0181-

4215; Odeon Marble Arch 0181-315 4215;

2272; Odeon Camden Town 0181-315 4222;

Odeon Haymarket 0181-315 4214;

Odeon Kensington 0181-315 4214;

Odeon Leicester Sq 0181-315 4214;

2116; Odeon Marble Arch 0181-315 4215;

071; Virgin Trafalgar 070-907-

0712; Virgin Trafalgar 070-907-

0716; Warner Village West

End 437 4543.

315 4221; Phoenix 0181-883 2233;

Plaza 0900-885930; Rezor 077

071 4032; Metro 724 1502; Notting Hill 322; Screen on Baker St 085-

2226; Screen on the Green 228;

2722; Screen on the Hill 435 3363;

UCI Whitley's 0900-888 990;

Virgin Fultam 070-907 0710;

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175: Curzon West End Open

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178: Curzon West End Open

autumn 1998; Empire Leicester Square 0900-885930; Rezor 077-

071 403

22/LISTINGS

PECKHAM

PREMIER (0181-235 3006) BR: Peckham Rye City Of Angels 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm Deep Impact 8.50pm Mimic 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.45pm, 11.15pm The Object Of My Affection 4.05pm, 6.30pm, 8.55pm Palmetto 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm The Replacement Killers 11.35pm Screen 2.15pm Sliding Doors 6.55pm Soul Food 3.30pm, 6.25pm, 8.30pm, 11.20pm Titanic 3.30pm Wiseman 11.30pm

PURLEY

ABC (0870-9020401) BR: Purley Mimic 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm The Object Of My Affection 2.1pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm Sliding Doors 2.50pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm

PUTNEY

ABC (0870-9020401) BR: Putney Bridge, BR: Putney. City Of Angels 2pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm The Object Of My Affection 2pm, 7pm, 9.30pm The Wedding Singer 2.5pm, 5.15pm, 7.30pm, 9.45pm

RICHMOND

ODEON STUDIO (0181-315 4218) BR/**S** Richmond City Of Angels 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Mimic 1.20pm, 4.10pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm The Object Of My Affection 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm The Wedding Singer 1.30pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm

RIMFORD

ODEON LIBERTY 2 (01708-729040) BR: Rimford. City Of Angels 2.25pm, 5.40pm, 8.15pm The Replacement Killers 6.10pm, 8.40pm Stiff Upper Lips 2.10pm, 4.05pm The Wedding Singer 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm

ODEON LIBERTY 2 (01708-729040) BR: Rimford. The Big Lebowski 2pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.15pm City Of Angels 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.35pm, 9.05pm Deep Impact 12.40pm, 3.20pm, 6.50pm, 8pm Mimic 12.10pm, 2.25pm, 4.05pm, 7pm, 9.20pm The Object Of My Affection 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8pm Scream 2.10pm, 4.35pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm Sliding Doors 12.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm The Wedding Singer 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

SIDCUP ABC (0541-555131) BR: Sidcup City Of Angels 2.20pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm The Object Of My Affection 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm

STAPLES CORNER

VIRGIN (0870-907017) BR: Staples Corner City Of Angels 1.30pm, 5.15pm, 8.30pm, 11pm Mimic 2.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm, 11.30pm The Object Of My Affection 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.30pm, 11pm Palmetto 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.20pm The Replacement Killers 11.30pm Sliding Doors 2.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.50pm Soul Food 10.30pm The Wedding Singer 2pm, 5.20pm, 8pm Wiseman 12mid-night

STREATHAM

ABC (0870-9020415) BR: Streatham Hill The Big Swap 1.55pm, 8.30pm Full Monty 4.30pm, 6.30pm Palmetto 2.25pm, 5.50pm, 8.20pm Sliding Doors 2.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.50pm Soul Food 10.30pm The Wedding Singer 12.10pm, 2.20pm, 4.40pm, 7pm, 9.20pm

NEW STRATFORD

PICTURE HOUSE (555 3366) BR/**S** Stratford East City Of Angels 1.15pm, 4.45pm, 9.15pm Girls' Night 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Live Flesh 2.30pm, 6.55pm The Object Of My Affection 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Seal Food 4.45pm, 9.30pm

SUTTON

UCI 6 (0990-888990) BR: Sutton/**S** Morden City Of Angels 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm, 12midnight Deep Impact 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm, 11.30pm Mimic 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm, 11.45pm The Object Of My Affection 4.35pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 11.15pm Sliding Doors 4.45pm, 7.15pm, 9.45pm TwentyFourSeven 12midnight The Wedding Singer 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm, 12.30am Wiseman 12.15am

TURKISH LANE

CORONET (0181-888 2519) BR: Turkish Lane. Mimic 5.55pm, 8.30pm Palmetto 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.25pm Sliding Doors 3.45pm, 6pm, 8.35pm

UXBRIDGE

ODEON (0189-813139) BR: Uxbridge City Of Angels 3.15pm, 6.35pm, 9.15pm Mimic 5.15pm, 8.25pm Sliding Doors 3.45pm, 6pm, 8.35pm

WALTHAMSTOW

ABC (0870-9020424) BR: Walthamstow Central Mimic 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm The Object Of My Affection 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.20pm The Wedding Singer 1.25pm, 3.40pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm

WALTON ON THAMES

THE SCREEN AT WALTON (01932-252825) BR: Walton On Thames City Of Angels 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.25pm Sliding Doors 3.50pm, 6.35pm, 8.50pm

WELL HALL

CORONET (0181-850 3351) BR: Well Hall Mimic 3.40pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm The Wedding Singer 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm

WILLESDEN

BELLE-VUE (0181-830 0822) BR/**S** Willesden Green The Blah Lebowski 9.15pm

WIMBLEDON

ODEON (0181-315 4222) BR: South Wimbledon City Of Angels 2.20pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm, 11.10pm Mimic 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

11.15pm The Object Of My Affection 1.05pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm, 11.15pm Sliding Doors 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm The Wedding Singer 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.55pm, 9.10pm, 11.30pm

WOODFORD

ABC (0181-889 3463) BR: South Woodford City Of Angels 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.25pm The Object Of My Affection 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.40pm, 8.30pm The Replacement Killers 8.40pm The Wedding Singer 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm

WOOLWICH

CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR: Woolwich Arsenal City Of Angels 3.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm Mimic 3.40pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm

CINEMA REPERTORY

LONDON CINE LUMIERE AT THE INSTITUT FRANCAIS Queen'sberry Street SW7 (0171-838 2144/2146) L'Appartement (15) 7.30pm

EVERTYMAN Hollybush Vale NW3 (0171-435 1252) Devil Is A Blue Dress (15) 2.10pm, 6.40pm + LA Confidential (18) 4pm, 8.30pm

ICA/Music SW1 (0171-367 3647) Happy Together (15) 5pm, 7pm, 9pm Alphaville (PG) 6.30pm, 6.45pm + Show

NFT South Bank SE1 (0171-369 0274) LA Confidential (18) 2.30pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm Barba Flak (15) 6.15pm The Big Heat 1.15pm The Big Red One: Lee Marvin 8.45pm Grosse Pointe Blank (15) 9.30pm

SIDCUP ABC (0541-555131) BR: Sidcup City Of Angels 2.20pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm The Object Of My Affection 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm

STAPLES CORNER VIRGIN (0870-907017) BR: Staples Corner City Of Angels 1.30pm, 5.15pm, 8.30pm, 11pm Mimic 2.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm, 11.30pm The Object Of My Affection 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.30pm, 11pm Palmetto 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.20pm The Replacement Killers 11.30pm Sliding Doors 2.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.50pm Soul Food 10.30pm The Wedding Singer 2pm, 5.20pm, 8pm Wiseman 12mid-night

STREATHAM ABC (0870-9020415) BR: Streatham Hill The Big Swap 1.55pm, 8.30pm Full Monty 4.30pm, 6.30pm Palmetto 2.25pm, 5.50pm, 8.20pm Sliding Doors 2.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.50pm Soul Food 10.30pm The Wedding Singer 12.10pm, 2.20pm, 4.40pm, 7pm, 9.20pm

NEW STRATFORD PICTURE HOUSE (555 3366) BR/**S** Stratford East City Of Angels 1.15pm, 4.45pm, 9.15pm Girls' Night 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Live Flesh 2.30pm, 6.55pm The Object Of My Affection 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Seal Food 4.45pm, 9.30pm

SUTTON ODEON (0181-315 4219) BR: Sutton/**S** Morden City Of Angels 2pm, 4.30pm, 7.10pm, 9.50pm Mimic 2.20pm, 4.50pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm The Object Of My Affection 12.20pm, 2.40pm, 5pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm The Replacement Killers 11.30pm Sliding Doors 2.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.50pm Soul Food 10.30pm The Wedding Singer 12.10pm, 2.20pm, 4.40pm, 7pm, 9.20pm

STAPLES CORNER PICTURE HOUSE (555 3366) BR/**S** Stratford East City Of Angels 1.15pm, 4.45pm, 9.15pm Girls' Night 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Live Flesh 2.30pm, 6.55pm The Object Of My Affection 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Seal Food 4.45pm, 9.30pm

WELL HALL ODEON (0181-850 3351) BR: Well Hall Mimic 3.40pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm The Wedding Singer 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm

WIMBLEDON ODEON (0181-315 4222) BR: South Wimbledon City Of Angels 2.20pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm, 11.10pm Mimic 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

WOODFORD ODEON (0181-889 3463) BR: South Woodford City Of Angels 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.25pm The Object Of My Affection 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.40pm, 8.30pm The Replacement Killers 8.40pm The Wedding Singer 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm

WOOLWICH ODEON (0181-854 5043) BR: Woolwich Arsenal City Of Angels 3.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm Mimic 3.40pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm

THEATRE WEST END

• THE MISANTHROPE Elaine Paige, Michael Pennington, Peter Bowles and Anna Carteret star in Ralph Bolt's new translation of Moliere's comedy. Piccadilly Damer Street, W1 (0171-365 1734) • Pic Ctr. In rep. tonight 7.45pm, continuing £35-£27.50, concs £12.50, 140 mins.

• ART Richard Griffiths, Tony Haygarth, Malcolm Stoen in Yasmina Reza's comedy about art and friendship. Wyndham's Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736/0c 867 1111) • Le Gai-Crois Sat-Sun 8pm, Sun 9pm, mats Wed 3pm, Sat 5pm, £20-£22.50, 90 mins.

• AS YOU LIKE IT Shakespeare's literary comedy contrasting the court and the natural world. The Globe New Globe Walk, SE1 (0171-401 9919) • Globe Theatre, Tonight 7.30pm, ends 8pm, £25-£20, concs available.

• BEAUTY AND THE BEAST lavish family musical based on Disney's cartoon version of the favorite fairytale. Dominion, Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-656 1888) • Tkt Ctr. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Thu 8pm, £15-20, 150 mins.

• THE OLD NEIGHBOR David Mamet's new play, directed by Patrick Marber, Royal Court (at the Duke of York's) St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-565 5000) • Charing X Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £19.50, benches 10+, Mon - all seats 25.

• BLOOD BROTHERS Williams' long-running Liverpool musical melodrama. Phoenix, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1733) • Charing X Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £19.50, benches 10+, Mon - all seats 25.

• THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Andrew Lloyd Webber's Gothic musical. Her Majesty's Theatre, SW1 (0171-494 5400) • Pic Ctr. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £19.50, 150 mins.

• BUDDY Musical bi-show starring the life of Buddy Holly. Strand (at the Duke of York's) St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1733) • Charing X Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £19.50, benches 10+, Mon - all seats 25.

• CINEMA REPERTORY Lawrence Boswell directs Ben Elton's satire on cinema violence. Apollo Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070) • Pic Ctr. Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £19.50, 150 mins.

• THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND & BLACK COMEDY Double bill of drama from Tom Stoppard and Peter Schaffer, directed by Gregory Doran. Comedy Parson's Lane, SW1 (0171-369 1731) • Pic Ctr. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £19.50, 150 mins.

• CHICAGO Ruthless! stars (in this hit Broadway musical). Adelphi Lane, WC2 (0171-344 0042) • Charing X Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £16-£26 (inc booking fee).

• CLOSER Superb study of contemporary sexual relationships from David Ives' author of *Art*. Old Vic (0171-494 5045) • Pic Ctr. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £16-£26 (inc booking fee).

• THE GHOST Lloyd Webber's bi-show starring the life of the late Buddy Holly. Mon-Thu 8pm, Fri 7.30pm & 8.30pm, Sat 8pm, £19.50, 150 mins.

• THE GREAT NATIONAL THEATRE +LYTTELTON: The Prime Of Miss Jean Brodie. West End Stage Story Bernstein's musical. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, 11.10pm, 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 5.45pm, 7.45pm, 9.45pm, 11.45pm.

• THE COMPLETE WORK

FRIDAY RADIO

RADIO 1

5.30 Kevin Greening and Zoe Ball 9.00 Simon Mayo. 12.00 Jo Whiley. 2.00 Mark Radcliffe. 4.00 Dave Pearce. 5.45 Newsbeat. 6.00 Pete Tong's Essential Selection. 9.00 Judge Jules. 11.00 Westwood - Radio 1 Rap Show. 2.00 Pablo and Grooverider. 4.00 - 7.00 Emma B.

RADIO 2

(88.9MHz FM)

6.00 Sarah Kennedy. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ke Bruce. 12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Ed Stewart. 5.55 Johnnie Walker. 7.00 Diane's Women. See Pick of the Day. 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night. 8.45 Clochemerie. 9.30 Listen to the Band. 10.00 David Jacobs. 10.30 Sheridan Morley. 12.05 Charles Nove. 4.00 - 6.00 Jackie Bird.

RADIO 3

(90.2MHz FM)

6.00 On Air. 9.00 Masterworks. 10.30 Artist of the Week. 11.00 Sound Stories. 12.00 Composer of the Week: C P E Bach. 1.00 Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. 2.00 The BBC Archive. See Pick of the Day. 4.00 Music Restored. 4.45 Music Machine. 5.00 In Tune.

7.30 Performance on 3. From the St Magnus Festival. Orkney. Conductor Martyn Brabbins. Paul Meyer (Clarinet). Britten: Four Sea Interludes. James MacMillan: Tuireadh. Mackenzie: Benedictus. Elgar: Enigma Variations.

9.00 Postscript. 5: 'The Killers'. Al and Max are on a job. They hold up a diner and await their victim. Reader Kerry Shale.

9.20 Young Musicians Chamber Music Festival 1997. The first of two programmes. Chillingham Quartet. Beethoven: String Quartet in E minor, Op 59 No 2 (Rasumovsky). 10.00 Hear and Now. Verity Sharp presents studio recordings of two contrasting American composers:

PICK OF THE DAY

ONE OF the most interesting (and least palatable) aspects of the classic Walt Disney cartoons is the women characters - broadly speaking, they divide into lovely, innocent young things (Snow White, Cinderella, Alice) or ironclad superwitches (the Wicked Queen, Cruella De Vil). In Disney's Women (7pm R2), Brian Sibley examines the relationship between the women in the life of Walt Disney (right) and the women in his art, with

frank contributions from his daughter, Diane Disney Miller. It's a fascinating exercise, though you suspect it's going to be overextended as a six-parter. The BBC Archive (2pm R2) is devoted to the underrated English composer Benjamin Frankel, who died 25 years ago. He was a dominant force in British film music, but his spiky accessible concert work has only recently found an audience.

ROBERT HANKS



the arch-serialist Milton Babbitt ('Septet but Equal' and 'Four Play') and the systemless 'quietist' Morton Feldman ('Instruments 1' and 'Three Clarinets, Cello and Piano'). The Composers' Ensemble is conducted by Paul Zukovsky, who has worked closely with both composers.

11.30 The Beat of My Heart. 12.00 Composer of the Week: Beethoven. (R)

1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

RADIO 4

(92.4MHz FM)

6.00 Today.

8.00 Desert Island Discs.

9.45 Serial: Intimate Death.

10.00 NEWS; Women's Hour.

11.00 NEWS; The Westbourne Trio.

11.30 One Flat Summer. (R)

12.00 NEWS; You and Yours.

1.00 The World at One.

1.30 Who Goes There?

2.00 NEWS; The Archers.

2.45 Afternoon Play: Talkers.

3.00 NEWS; Veg Talk (071) 580 4444.

3.30 Matchmakers.

3.45 Reading.

4.00 NEWS; Open Book.

5.00 PM.

6.00 Six O'Clock News.

6.30 in the Chair.

7.00 NEWS; The Archers.

7.45 Front Row. Frances Stock marks the 50th birthday of one of

the most important musical innovations of the century - the long-playing record, which has now virtually disappeared from the shops.

2.45 Under One Roof: I Never Promised You a Rose Garden. Sally Woodward's series is based on the original stories by Michele Hanson. Everything in the garden is not quite as lovely as Gillian and her boyfriend would like, as he sets to work to create an Eden in the suburbs and battles with major resistance from Bemice and Chloe. With Paola Dionisotti and Edna Dore.

3.00 NEWS; Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby is joined in London by panellists including Diana Abbott, Labour MP for Hackney North and Stoke Newington; and Teresa Gorman, Conservative MP for Bitterley.

4.30 Letter from America. Alistair Cooke with another slice of Americana.

5.00 NEWS; The Friday Play: The Information Aged. By Jerome Vincent. When a solar flare brings the digital revolution to an end, old skills are re-learned in a brave new analogue world. With Alison Pettitt, Kerry Shale, Ioan Merveth, Kate Harper and Geoffrey Whitehead. Director David Blount. Harris.

10.00 NEWS; Women's Hour.

11.00 NEWS; The Westbourne Trio.

11.30 One Flat Summer. (R)

12.00 NEWS; You and Yours.

1.00 The World at One.

1.30 Who Goes There?

2.00 NEWS; The Archers.

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3.00 NEWS; Veg Talk (071) 580 4444.

3.30 Matchmakers.

3.45 Reading.

4.00 NEWS; Open Book.

5.00 PM.

6.00 Six O'Clock News.

6.30 in the Chair.

7.00 NEWS; The Archers.

7.45 Front Row. Frances Stock marks the 50th birthday of one of

Greg Wise, abridged in ten parts by Michelene Wendorff. The offer of a job in Paris takes Julian away from the seminary. He decides to visit Mme de Renal secretly on the way (5/10).

11.00 Late Tackle. Martin Bashir and guests include comedian Tony Hawks get together for a spot of late-night conversation in this Wimbledon special.

12.00 News.

12.30 The Late Book: Intimacy.

1.00 As World Service.

5.30 World News.

5.35 Shipping Forecast.

5.40 Inshore Forecast.

5.45 Prayer for the Day.

5.55 - 6.00 Weather.

1.00 Alan Mann. 2.00 Concerto.

3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

1.00 Up All Night.

3.00 International Rugby.

5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

1.00 CLASSIC FM (100.1MHz FM)

6.00 Michael Mappin. 8.00 Henry Kelly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 Jamie Crick. 6.30 Newsnight. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Evening Concert.

1.00 Alan Mann. 2.00 Concerto.

3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

1.00 WORLD SERVICE (198kHz LW)

1.00 Newsdesk. 1.30 From the Weeklies. 1.45 Britain Today. 2.00 Newsdesk. 2.30 Songs of Home.

2.45 Short Story. 3.00 Newday.

3.30 People and Politics. 4.00 World News. 4.05 World Business Report. 4.30 Sports Roundup.

4.30 Weekend/Insight (SW 587kHz only). 4.45 Off the Shelf: Something to Hide (SW 587Khz only). 5.00 Newday. 5.30 Outlook. 5.35 - 6.00 Spotlight.

1.00 RADIO 4 LW (198kHz LW)

9.45 - 10.00 Worship. 12.00 - 12.04 Shipping. 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping. 1.30 - 6.00 Parliament.

1.00 RADIO 5 LIVE (693.90kHz MW)

6.00 The Breakfast Programme.

9.00 Nicky Campbell.

12.00 The Midday News.

1.00 News and Sport on Five.

7.30 World Cup 98. Ian Payne introduces commentary from Mike Ingham, Alan Green and Terry Butcher in lens on England's last game in Group G as places in the

second phase are decided. News too from all the other games in Saint Denis where John Murray will be watching Romania v Tunisia.

10.00 World Cup Phone-In. England have completed their group games, so what do you think of it so far? Call David Mellor on 0500 909693.

11.00 Late Night Live. Insight and comment on the day's big issues with Brian Hayes, including 11.00 the late night news, and 11.5 The Financial World Tonight.

1.00 Up All Night.

3.00 International Rugby.

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3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

1.00 VIRGIN RADIO (125.19MHz MW)

7.00 Chris Evans. 10.00 Russ Williams. 1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00 Robin Banks. 7.00 Johnny Boy's Wheels of Steel. 11.00 Janet Lee Grace. 2.00 Howard Pearce.

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